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1903









# L A W S

OF THE

184

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

RELATING TO

POLITICAL COMMITTEES, CAUCUSES,  
CONVENTIONS,

AND THE

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES,

INCLUDING THE ACTS OF 1903,

WITH AN APPENDIX

CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATIVE TO

QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS, NATURALIZATION

AND

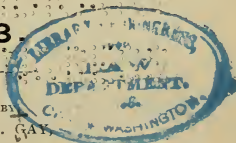
ELECTION DISTRICTS.

1903.

COMPILED BY

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# POLITICAL CALENDAR

RELATING TO THE

## STATE ELECTION

1903.

### IN BOSTON ONLY.

#### Registration of Voters.

July 20 to August 22 inclusive, 9 to 5, August 24 to September 15 inclusive, 9 to 5, 6 to 10, Saturday, 9 to 12, September 16 to October 2, 9 to 5, October 3 to October 14, 9 to 5, 6 to 10.

No registration Sundays.

**Sept. 1.**—Last day for listing persons for registration.

**Sept. 15.**—Registration for the Primaries closes at 10 P. M.

**Oct. 3.**—Evening registration opens in the several wards from 6 P. M. to 10 P. M.

#### Caucuses, Conventions, etc.

**Aug. 31.**—Last day for appointing election officers.

**Sept. 22.**—All Republican, Democratic and Socialist caucuses for the choice of delegates to Conventions and the nomination of candidates to be voted for at the State election must be held at the same time and place on this day. Polls open from 6 A. M. to 4 P. M.

**Sept. 28.**—Earliest day for calling and holding Republican, Democratic and Socialist Conventions.

**Oct. 9.**—Last day for the Election Commissioners to post in each voting precinct copies of the voting lists.

### OUTSIDE OF BOSTON.—CAUCUSES.

<b>Sept. 22.</b> —All Socialist caucuses	} For the choice of delegates to conventions and the nomination in caucuses of candidates for the General Court, must be held.
<b>Sept. 23.</b> —All Republican caucuses	
<b>Sept. 24.</b> —All Democratic caucuses	

### OUTSIDE OF BOSTON.—CONVENTIONS.

<b>Sept. 28.</b> —Earliest day for calling and holding Socialist	} Conventions, except Representative Conventions.
<b>Sept. 28.</b> —Earliest day for calling and holding Republican	
<b>Sept. 29.</b> —Earliest day for calling and holding Democratic	
<b>Sept. 30.</b> —Earliest day for calling and holding Socialist	} Representative Convention.
<b>Oct. 1.</b> —Earliest day for calling and holding Republican	
<b>Oct. 2.</b> —Earliest day for calling and holding Democratic	

## STATE CONVENTIONS.

**Sept. 28.**—Socialist, in Paine Memorial Hall, 10.30 A. M.

**Oct. 1.**—Democratic in Tremont Temple, Boston, 11 A. M.

**Oct. 2.**—Republican in Tremont Temple, Boston, 10.30 A. M.

## IN GENERAL.

**For Registration of Voters.**—"Registrars shall hold such sessions as the town by by-law or the city . . . by ordinance shall prescribe."

**Sept. 30.**—Last day for appointing election officers in cities except Boston.

**Oct. 3.**—Last day for designating polling places.

**Oct. 3.**—Last day for Registrars of Voters in every city and town, except in Boston, to post in each voting precinct preliminary alphabetical list of voters.

**Oct. 5.**—Certificates of nomination for offices to be filled by all the voters of the Commonwealth **MUST** be filed at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth *before 5 P. M.\**

**Oct. 12.**—Nomination papers for nominations of candidates for offices to be filled by all the voters of the Commonwealth **MUST** be filed at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth *before 5 P. M.\**

**Oct. 13.**—Last day for calling and holding Convention for nomination of candidates for offices to be filled at a State Election, other than those to be filled by all the voters of the Commonwealth, **MUST** be called and held *before 5 P. M.*

**Oct. 12.**—Last day for petitioning for the appointment of supervisors of elections.

**Oct. 14.**—Last day for registration in every city. Upon this day Registrars must hold a continuous session from 12 o'clock noon (in Boston Election Commissioners, from 9 A. M.) until 10 P. M., when registration must cease.

**Oct. 15.**—Last day for appointing election officers in towns.

**Oct. 15.**—Certificates of nomination for candidates for offices to be filled at a State election, other than those to be filled by all the voters of the Commonwealth, **MUST** be filed at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth *before 5 P. M.\**

**Oct. 16.**—Nomination papers for nomination of candidates for offices to be filled at a State election, other than those to be filled by all the voters of the Commonwealth, **MUST** be filed at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, *before 5 P. M.\**

**Oct. 19.**—Last day for filing complaint against incorrect and illegal registration in cities.

**Oct. 24.**—Last day for registration in every town. On this day Registrars must hold a continuous session from 12 M. to 10 P. M., when registration must cease.

**Oct. 29.**—Last day for filing complaint against incorrect and illegal registration in towns.

**Nov. 1.**—Last day for filling vacancies among election officers.

**Nov. 3.**—STATE ELECTION.

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\* Objections to or withdrawals from nominations must be made within the seventy-two hours succeeding 5 o'clock of the last day fixed for the filing of nomination papers for such offices.

# POLITICAL CALENDAR

## RELATING TO CITY ELECTIONS.

1903.

In Brockton, Fitchburg, Gloucester, Lawrence, Marlborough, New Bedford, Northampton, Pittsfield, Quincy, Springfield, Taunton and Waltham,

**Registration of Voters.**—“Registrars shall hold such sessions as the city, by ordinance, shall prescribe.”

**Nov. 11.**—Last day before City election for registration. On this day Registrars must hold a continuous session from 12 M. to 10 P.M., when registration must cease.

**Nov. 16.**—Certificates of nomination must be filed with City Clerk before 5 P. M.\*

**Nov. 18.**—Nomination papers must be filed with the City Clerk before 5 P. M.\*

**Dec. 1.**—CITY ELECTION.

In Beverly, Cambridge, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newburyport, Newton, Salem, Somerville, Woburn and Worcester.

**Registration of Voters.**—“Registrars shall hold such sessions as the city, by ordinance shall prescribe.”

**Nov. 18.**—Last day before City election for registration. On this day Registrars must hold a continuous session from 12 M. to 10 P. M., when registration must cease.†

**Nov. 23.**—Certificates of nomination must be filed with the City Clerk before 5 P. M.\*§

**Nov. 25.**—Nomination papers must be filed with the City Clerk before 5 P. M.\*

**Dec. 8.**—CITY ELECTION.

### IN BOSTON.

**Registration of Voters, Central Office.**

Nov. 4 till Nov. 11 inclusive, from 9 to 5.

Nov. 12 till Nov. 17 } inclusive, from 9 to 5 and 6 to 10.  
and

Nov. 20 till Nov. 24 }

Nov. 25 continuous session from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M., when registration must cease.

**Evening Ward Registration.** Nov. 12 to Nov. 17 and Nov. 20 to Nov. 25 inclusive, 6 to 10 P. M.

Registration for the City Primary ceases Nov. 12 at 10 P. M.

No Registration Sundays.

**Nov. 19.**—City Primary polls open from 6 A. M. to 4 P. M.

**Nov. 26.**—Conventions to nominate candidates for school committee must be held on this day.

**Nov. 28.**—Certificates of nomination must be filed before 5 P. M.

**Nov. 30.**—Nomination papers must be filed before 5 P. M.

**Dec. 1.**—Certificate of nomination to fill vacancies caused by withdrawals must be filed before 5 P. M.

**Dec. 15.**—CITY ELECTION.

IN NORTH ADAMS, † Nov. 25. § Nov. 30. ¶ Dec. 2.  
CITY ELECTION, Dec. 15.

\* Objections to nominations or withdrawals from, must be made within the seventy-two hours (in Boston forty-eight hours) succeeding 5 o'clock of the last day fixed for the filing of nomination papers for such offices.

# SUMMARY

OF THE

## LEGISLATION OF 1903

RELATING TO

LISTING OF VOTERS IN BOSTON, ASSESSMENT, REGISTRATION, CAUCUSES  
AND ELECTIONS.

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### CHAPTER 279.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE LISTING AND REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN  
THE CITY OF BOSTON.

All the essential provisions of this act are given below. The portions omitted are either duplications or refer to matters of detail.

SECTION 1. In Boston the board of police shall, within the first seven week days of May in each year, by themselves or their officers, visit every building in said city and after diligent inquiry make true lists, arranged by streets, wards and voting precincts and containing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name, age, occupation and residence on the first day of May in the current year, and the residence on the first day of May in the preceding year, of every male person twenty years of age or upwards, residing in said city. They shall designate in such lists all buildings used as residences by such male persons, in their order on the street where they are located, by giving the number or other definite description of each such building so that it can be readily identified, and shall place opposite the number or other description of each such building the name, age and occupation of every such male person residing therein on the first day of May in the current year, and his residence on the first day of May in the preceding year. They shall also inquire at the residences of the women voters whose names are contained in the list transmitted to them by the election commissioners under section

eight of this act whether such women voters are resident thereat, and shall thereupon make true lists of the women voters found by them.

They shall place in such lists, opposite the name of each such male person or woman voter, the name of the inmate, owner or occupant of the building, or the name and residence of any other person, who gives the information relating to such male person or woman voter. Where such information is given by one person relating to more than one such male person or woman voter residing in one building, ditto marks may be used in such lists under the name of the person giving the information, after his name has been once placed opposite the name of such male person or woman voter first written down as residing in such building.

The board of police shall, upon the personal application of a listed person for the correction of any error in their lists, or whenever informed of any such error, make due investigation and, upon proof thereof, correct the same on their lists. They shall cause all applications and affidavits received by them under this section to be preserved for two years.

SECTION 2. The board of police shall, on or before the twelfth day of May in each year, transmit to the election commissioners the lists, made as provided in the preceding section, or certified copies thereof, and shall promptly transmit to the election commissioners notice of every addition to and correction in the lists made by them. The board of police shall furnish all information in their possession necessary to aid the election commissioners in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 3. The board of police shall, on or before the fifteenth day of June in each year, prepare street lists containing the information concerning such male persons, obtained by them under section one of this act. . . . They shall print such lists in pamphlet form.

. . . . .

SECTION 4. If a male person resident in Boston on the first day of May was not listed by the board of police, he shall, in order to establish his right to be listed, appear before the board of police, the

superintendent, a deputy superintendent or an inspector of police, who are hereby authorized to administer oaths for this purpose, and present under oath a statement in writing that he was on said day a resident of said city, giving the number on the street or other definite description of the building in which he so resided.

A male person who becomes a resident of said city after the first day of May and desires to be listed shall appear before the board of police, the superintendent, a deputy superintendent or an inspector of police, who are hereby authorized to administer oaths for *this* purpose, and present under oath a statement in writing that he became a resident of said city at least six months immediately preceding the election at which he claims the right to vote, giving the number on the street or other definite description of the building in which he so resided.

If the board of police are satisfied that such statements are true, they shall give such applicant a certificate that he was a resident of said city on said first day of May or a certificate that he became a resident of said city at least six months immediately preceding such election, as the case may be; but no person shall be listed or be given such certificate later than the first day of September.

SECTION 5. The board of police shall enter the name and residence of each applicant who has been given a certificate, as above provided, in a book provided for that purpose, and shall cause to be printed in some newspaper published in Boston the name and residence of each applicant who has been given such a certificate.

SECTION 6. The board of police shall have its office open during such hours as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of the two preceding sections.

SECTION 7. Provides that after an applicant has been given a certificate the board of police shall make investigation as to his residence, etc., and shall make a record of the same which shall be open to the public. They shall also make report to the election commissioners for the correction and revision of the registers.

SECTION 8. Provides that the election commissioners shall, after

May first in each year, prepare an annual register of the qualified voters.

SECTION 9. Every person, male or female, whose name has not been entered in the annual register in accordance with the preceding section, must, in order to be registered as a voter, apply in person for registration and prove that he is qualified to register.

SECTION 10. Every male applicant for registration shall present a certificate from the board of police, as provided in section four of this act, and the same shall be prima facie evidence of his residence.

SECTIONS 11—12—13. Prescribe penalties for fraudulent entries, refusal or wilful neglect of duty, etc.

SECTIONS 14—15—16—17—18—19—20. Amend certain sections of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws to make the provisions of said sections consistent with this act and repeal inconsistent provisions.

## RELATING TO ASSESSMENT.

### CHAPTER 430.

AN ACT TO LIMIT AND DEFINE THE TIME FOR ASSESSMENT OF POLLS  
AND ESTATES AFTER MAY FIRST.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section nineteen of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word "assessors," in the third line, the words:—before the close of registration,—so that said paragraph will read as follows:—SECTION 19. If a male person resident in a city or town on the first day of May was not assessed for a poll tax, he shall, in order to establish his right to assessment, present to the assessors *before the close of registration* a statement under oath that he was on said day a resident of such city or town and liable to pay a poll tax therein, and a list under oath of his polls and estate; and shall also produce before the assessors two witnesses, who shall testify, under oath that they are voters of the ward or town in which such person desires to be registered and that the statement of the applicant is true.

This act does not apply to Boston.



## RELATING TO REGISTRATION.

*All new provisions are printed in italics.*

## CHAPTER 474.

## AN ACT TO CORRECT THE LAWS RELATIVE TO ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. Amends section forty-six of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws by striking out the whole of said section and inserting in place thereof the following:—SECTION 46. *Every male applicant for registration whose name has not been transmitted to the registrars as provided in section sixteen shall present a tax bill or notice from the collector of taxes, or a certificate from the assessors showing that he was assessed as a resident of the city or town on the preceding first day of May, or a certificate that he became a resident therein at least six months preceding the election at which he claims the right to vote, and the same shall be prima facie evidence of his residence. In Boston every such applicant whose name has not been transmitted to the election commissioners as provided by law shall present a certificate from the board of police as provided by law and the same shall be prima facie evidence of his residence.*"

SECTION 2. Amends section forty-seven of said chapter by striking out at the beginning thereof the words "If the qualifications of an applicant have not been determined by the registrars within the four years preceding his application, the registrar shall examine him under oath relative thereto," and inserting in place thereof the words:—"The registrars shall examine under oath an applicant for registration relative to his qualifications as a voter."

SECTION 3. Amends section fifty-one of said chapter by striking out all after the word "not," in the eighth line, and inserting in place thereof the words in italics below so as to read as follows:—SECTION 51. The registrars shall, from time to time, revise and correct the general register and the current annual register in accordance with any facts which may be presented to them. They shall strike therefrom the name of every deceased person which has been transmitted to them by the city or town clerk or the registrar of deaths in accordance with section twenty-three; but after

the name of a voter has been placed upon the current annual register, they shall not *change the place of residence as given thereon, nor, unless the voter has deceased, strike such name therefrom, until they have sent him a notice of their intention so to do and that he may be heard on a certain day named therein.*

SECTION 4. Amends section fifty-two of said chapter so as to make the provisions for the delivery of the "summons" in complaints of illegal or incorrect registration more definite. The words in italics cover essentially the change made. The paragraph amended reads as follows:—

*"Service of the summons shall be made by an officer qualified to serve civil or criminal process, not more than fourteen nor less than two days before the day named for appearance, by delivering in hand a copy of the summons to the person therein summoned, or by leaving it at the place of illegal or incorrect registration, if no later residence of such person appears on the register, and in that event at such later residence if the officer finds that such person resides at such place or later residence, as the case may be, or if he was formerly there and has changed his residence, then by leaving it at the place to which he has moved, if it is within the officer's jurisdiction and can be ascertained by inquiry at such place or later residence; but if the officer cannot make personal service, and cannot ascertain the residence of the person complained of, the copy of the summons shall be left at such person's last residence, if any, known to the officer within his jurisdiction."*

SECTION 5. Amends section fifty-three of said chapter by inserting after the word "register," in the ninth line, the words;—"If they are satisfied that, although he is a qualified voter in the city or town, he is illegally or incorrectly registered in a ward or voting precinct other than the ward or voting precinct in which he is required to be registered as provided in section fourteen, and are satisfied as to which ward or voting precinct he is so required to be registered in, and as to his place of residence in such ward or voting precinct, they shall change his place of residence as given on the register accordingly."

## RELATING TO CAUCUSES.

*All new provisions are printed in italics.*

## CHAPTER 425.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR DIRECT NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR  
COUNCILLOR IN DISTRICTS MADE UP ONLY OF SUFFOLK  
SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

This act amends chapter five hundred and thirty-seven of the acts of nineteen hundred and three by inserting after the word "candidate" in the second line, the words "*for the office of councillor in districts made up of Suffolk senatorial districts.*"

See page 76.

## CHAPTER 426.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF ALDERMEN  
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

"SECTION 1. *The aldermen of the city of Boston shall be thirteen in number, nominated and elected by and from the citizens at large.*

SECTION 2. *The nominations shall be made in the caucuses throughout the city. Every political party making such nominations shall nominate eight candidates, and the eight candidates receiving the eight highest numbers of votes shall be the candidates of the party. . . .*

SECTION 3. *The thirteen candidates receiving at the election the thirteen highest numbers of votes shall be elected."*

## CHAPTER 450.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR DIRECT NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS IN THE NINTH, TENTH AND ELEVENTH. .  
DISTRICTS.

*This act provides that "every nomination by a political party of a candidate for representative in Congress in the ninth, tenth and eleventh congressional districts shall be made in caucuses by direct plurality vote."*

For act in full see page 82.

## CHAPTER 453.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO RETURNS OF CAUCUSES AT WHICH ARE MADE DIRECT NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR CERTAIN ELECTIVE OFFICES.

For act in full see page 83.

## CHAPTER 454.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR JOINT CAUCUSES OR PRIMARIES OF ALL POLITICAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTIES.

This act provides that "*All caucuses of political and municipal parties . . . shall be held at the same time and place as primaries, and shall be conducted in general accordance with the provisions of law concerning the conduct of elections and the manner of voting thereat, except as otherwise provided herein.*"

Also that "*This act shall take effect in Boston upon its passage. In other cities and towns using official ballots the question of its acceptance shall be submitted to the voters at the next annual State election and the act shall take effect as soon after its acceptance by a majority of the voters voting thereon as the provisions of law relative to nominations can be complied with.*"

For act in full see page 85.

## CHAPTER 474.

SECTION 6. Amends section ninety of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws "by adding at the end thereof the words:—It shall be the duty of the presiding officer at a caucus to open such caucus at the hour appointed therefor in the notice thereof,—so as to read as follows:—SECTION 90. Every caucus of a political party shall be called by a written or printed notice. No caucus or meeting of a political party not so called shall be recognized as valid under this title. *It shall be the duty of the presiding officer at a caucus to open such caucus at the hour appointed therefor in the notice thereof.*"

See Section 90, page 13.

SECTION 7. Amends section one hundred and eight of said chapter by inserting after the word "residences," in the fourteenth line, the words:—*Such papers for a district composed of more than one ward or town shall be signed by a number of voters equal in the*

*aggregate to not less than five voters for each ward or town in said district,—and by striking out the words “No nomination paper offered for filing shall be received or be valid unless the written acceptance of every candidate thereby nominated shall be filed therewith,” in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth lines, and inserting in place thereof the words:—No nomination paper shall be valid in respect to any candidate whose written acceptance is not thereon.”*

See Section 108, page 26.

SECTION 8. Amends section one hundred and thirty-seven of said chapter by striking out lines one to seven, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the words:—SECTION 137. *Candidates for senator and member of the state committee for each of the Suffolk senatorial districts to be nominated or elected by a political party shall be nominated or elected by direct vote in caucuses.*

The words stricken out had reference to signatures required for nomination papers nominating senators, etc., and were in conflict with the provisions of Section 108 as amended by Section 7 of this act.

See Section 137, page 40.

## RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

### CHAPTER 318.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DISPOSITION OF CASES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE ELECTION LAWS.

This act amends section four hundred and twenty-one of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws by adding at the end thereof the words:—*“A prosecution for the violation of any provision of this chapter shall not, unless the purposes of justice require such disposition, be placed on file or disposed of except by trial and judgment according to the regular course of criminal proceedings,”* etc.

See page 76.

### CHAPTER 368.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A STATE BOARD OF VOTING MACHINE EXAMINERS.

That act provides that *“There shall be a state board of voting*

*machine examiners consisting of three persons, one of whom shall be an expert in patent law, and two shall be mechanical experts . . . appointed by the governor . . . for the term of five years."*

For Act in full see page 78.

#### CHAPTER 474.

SECTION 9. Amends section two hundred and thirty-one of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws by striking out all after the word "be," in the third line, and inserting in place thereof the words:—marked by an election officer "Spoiled"—so as to read as follows:—

SECTION 231. If a voter spoils a ballot, he may obtain two others, one at a time, upon returning each spoiled one, and all ballots so returned shall immediately be *marked by an election officer "Spoiled."*

SECTION 10. Amends section two hundred and thirty-three of said chapter by striking out the words "the presiding officer," in the second line, and inserting in place thereof the words:—one of the officers in charge of the ballot box—so as to read as follows:—SECTION 233. A voter after marking his ballot shall give his name and, if requested, his residence, to *one of the officers in charge of the ballot box*, who shall distinctly announce the same.

SECTION 11. Amends section two hundred and forty-one of said chapter by striking out all after the word "the," in the ninth line, and inserting the words printed below in italics:

City and town clerks shall retain in their custody the voting lists and ballots not cast as long as they retain the ballots cast. They shall then transmit such voting lists to the registrars of voters for future reference, and shall destroy the *"ballots marked 'Spoiled,' without examining them or permitting them to be examined, and may make such disposition of the undistributed ballots as they may deem proper."*

SECTION 12. Amends section two hundred and sixty-seven of said chapter by striking out the words "swear to and file," in the fifth line, and inserting in place thereof the words:—*and cause to be filed*,—and by inserting after the word "statement," in the sixth line, the words:—*sworn to by one of the subscribers*.

# REVISED LAWS

## OF

### MASSACHUSETTS.

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#### CHAPTER 11.

Sections 1- 11—General Provisions.

Section 36——Registration of Voters before a Caucus.

Section 67——Voting Lists for Use at Caucuses.

Section 8- 69—Election Commissioners in Boston.

Sections 80- 84—Political Committees.

Sections 85- 94—Provisions Applying to all Caucuses of Political Parties.

Sections 95- 99—Provisions Applying to Caucuses of Political Parties except  
in Boston and in Certain Cities and Towns.

Sections 99-131—Provisions Applying to Caucuses of Political Parties in  
Boston and Certain Cities and Towns.

Sections 136-155—Nomination of Candidates, Nomination in Suffolk Senatorial  
Districts, Conventions, etc.

Sections 156-160—State Ballot Law Commission.

Section 226——Stamps for Marking Ballots.

Sections 270-273—Voting Machines and Apparatus.

Sections 285-306—Corrupt Practices.

Section 307——Inquest in Caucus, Convention and Election Cases.

Sections 366-380—Penalties upon Officers.

Sections 381-386—Penalties upon Voters.

Sections 387-421—General Penalties.

**Terms  
defined.**

SECTION 1. Terms used in this chapter and in statutes relative to elections shall be construed as follows, unless other meaning is clearly apparent from the language or context, or unless such construction is inconsistent with the manifest intent of the legislature:

“Caucus” shall apply to any public meeting of the voters of a ward of a city, or of a town, or of a representative district held under the provisions of this chapter for the nomination of a candidate for election, for the election of a political committee or of delegates to a political convention.

“Caucus officers” shall apply to chairmen, wardens, secretaries, clerks and inspectors, and, when on duty, to additional officers specially elected, or elected to fill a vacancy, and taking part in the conduct of caucuses.

“City election” shall apply to any election held in a city for the choice of a city officer by the voters whether for a full term or for the filling of a vacancy.

“City officer” shall apply to any person to be chosen by the voters at a city election.

“Elective office” shall apply to any office to be filled by the voters at any state, city or town election.

“Official ballot” shall mean a ballot prepared for any election or caucus by public authority and at public expense.



“Political committee” shall apply only to a committee elected in pursuance of this chapter.

**Terms  
defined.**

“Political convention” shall apply only to a convention called and held in pursuance of this chapter.

“Political party” shall apply to a party which at the preceding annual state election polled for governor at least three per cent. of the entire vote cast in the commonwealth for that office.

“Polling place” shall apply to a room or place provided by a city or town for an election or caucus.

“Presiding officer” shall apply to the warden or chairman at a caucus, to the warden, chairman of the selectmen, moderator or town clerk in charge of a polling place at an election, or to a justice of the peace acting as moderator at a town meeting; or, in the absence of any such officer, to the deputy warden or the clerk or senior inspector or senior selectman present who shall have charge of a polling place.

“Registrars” shall mean the board of registrars of voters of a city or town or the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston, when applicable.

“State election” shall apply to any election held for the choice of a national, state, district or county officer by the voters, whether for a full term or for the filling of a vacancy.

**Terms  
defined.**

"State officer" shall apply to any person to be chosen at a state election.

"Town election" shall apply to any meeting held for the election of town officers by the voters, whether for a full term or for the filling of a vacancy.

"Town elections or meetings at which official ballots are used" shall be construed to mean town elections or meetings in towns to which section three hundred and sixty-four applies.

"Town officer" shall apply to any person to be chosen at a town meeting.

"Two leading political parties" shall apply to the political parties which cast the highest and next highest number of votes for governor at the preceding annual state election.

"Voter" shall mean a registered male voter.

**Sundays and Holidays.****Period of  
time, how  
computed in  
election laws.**

SECT. 4. In computing the period of time prescribed in any statute relating to elections, Sundays and holidays shall generally be included; but when the last day of such period falls on a Sunday or on a holiday the succeeding day shall be considered the final day of such period; and when the first day of such period falls on a Sunday or on a holiday, the day preceding shall be considered the first day of the period.

**Election Commissioners.****Powers  
and duties**

SECT. 8. All the powers and duties relating to caucuses or elections by law vested in and

imposed upon the mayor and aldermen or either of them, the city clerk or the board of registrars of voters in cities, excepting the power and duty of giving notice of elections, and fixing the days and hours of holding the same, shall, in the city of Boston, be vested in and performed by the board of election commissioners of said city, who shall be subject to all penalties prescribed for failure to perform the said duties.

**vested in  
election  
commissioners  
of Boston.**

### **Criminal Prosecutions.**

SECT. II. If, in a criminal prosecution for the violation of any law relating to caucuses or elections or matters pertaining thereto, the defendant relies upon the invalidity, irregularity or informality of any caucus or election, or upon the failure or neglect of any officer or person to do any act in relation to any caucus or election or matters pertaining thereto, he shall prove such invalidity, irregularity, informality, failure or neglect; and until such proof, the presumption shall be that such caucus or election or matters pertaining thereto were valid, regular and formal and that such officer or person acted as prescribed by law. The testimony of the clerk of the city or town, wherein it is alleged that such election was held, or of the presiding officer, secretary or clerk of such caucus, that such election or caucus was actually held, shall be prima facie evidence that the same was regularly and duly held; but the validity, regularity or formality of

**Caucus  
etc., to be  
deemed  
regular in  
criminal  
prosecutions.**

such caucus or election or matters pertaining thereto may also be proved in any other legal manner.

### Registration of Voters Before a Caucus.

**Registrars to hold one session for registration before a caucus.**

SECT. 36. The registrars . . shall hold at least one session at some suitable and convenient place in every city or town on or before the Saturday last preceding the first caucus preceding the annual state election, to give an opportunity to qualified voters to register. . . .

### Voting Lists for Use at Caucuses.

**Voting lists for use at caucus to be furnished by Registrars.**

SECT. 67. When a caucus is called the registrars shall, on request of the chairman of the ward or town committee of the party whose caucus is to be held or of the person designated to call the caucus to order, furnish him for use in the caucus a certified copy of the voting list of the town, or of the ward of the city for which the caucus is to be held, as last published, adding thereto the names of voters registered since such publication.

### Election Commissioners.

**Election commissioners, appointment.**

SECT. 69. The election department of Boston shall be under the charge of a board of election commissioners consisting of four citizens and voters of Boston who shall be appointed by the mayor without confirmation by the board of aldermen; and chapter two hundred and sixty-six of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and all other acts relating to departments of Boston or the officers and employees thereof, not inconsistent herewith, shall be applicable

to said department and the officers and employees thereof.

SECT. 72. Said board shall constitute the Boston Ballot Law Commission; and shall in all matters relating to objections and questions arising in the case of nominations of candidates for city offices have the powers and perform the duties prescribed for the ballot law commission of the commonwealth; and when sitting as such, the chief justice of the municipal court of the city of Boston, or in case of his disability the senior justice of said court who is not disabled, shall be a member of said board and shall preside, but shall not vote unless the other commissioners are equally divided; and in every other matter in which the commissioners are equally divided said chief justice shall act with them and shall cast the deciding vote.

### **POLITICAL COMMITTEES.**

#### **State Committee.**

SECT. 80. Each political party shall annually elect a state committee, the members of which shall hold office for one year from the first day of January next following their election and until their successors shall have organized.

Said committee shall consist of at least one member from each senatorial district, who shall, except in the Suffolk senatorial districts, be elected at the convention held for the nomination of a candidate for senator to be voted for in said district at the annual state election.

**To constitute the Boston Ballot Law Commission, etc.**

**State committee to be elected annually.**

**term of office.**

**how constituted.**

**Members  
for  
Suffolk  
Districts.**

The members of said committee for the Suffolk senatorial districts shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of section one hundred and thirty-seven.

**when  
organized.  
  
officers.**

The members of the state committee shall, in January, meet and organize by the choice of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as they may decide to elect.

**Organization  
to be filed, etc.**

The secretary of the state committee shall, within ten days after such organization, file with the secretary of the commonwealth, and send to each city and town committee, a list of the members of the committee and of its officers.

**vacancies.**

A vacancy in the office of chairman, secretary or treasurer of the committee or in the membership thereof shall be filled by the committee, and a statement of any such change shall be filed as in the case of the officers first chosen.

**City, Ward and Town Committees.**

**Ward and  
town  
committees to  
be chosen.**

SECT. 81. Each political party shall, in every ward and town, annually elect a committee to be called a ward or a town committee, to consist of not less than three persons, who shall hold office for one year from the first day of January next following their election and until their successors shall have organized.

**term of office.**

**City com-  
mittee, how  
constituted.**

The members of the several ward committees of a political party in a city shall constitute a committee to be called a city committee.

Each town committee shall annually, between the first day of January and the first day of March, and each ward and city committee shall, within thirty days after the beginning of its term of office, meet and organize by the choice of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as it may decide to elect.

The secretary of each city and town committee shall, within ten days after its organization, file with the secretary of the commonwealth, with the city or town clerk, and with the secretary of the state committee of the political party which it represents, a list of the officers and members of the committee.

A vacancy in the office of chairman, secretary or treasurer of a city, ward, or town committee shall be filled by the committee, and a vacancy in the membership of a ward or town committee shall be filled by such committee, and a statement of any such change shall be filed as in the case of the officers first chosen.

SECT. 82. Upon a re-division of a city into wards, any political party may in the next succeeding calendar year elect its ward committees for such terms, not exceeding the length of the terms for which the former committees were chosen, as the city committee existing at the time of calling the caucuses may determine, and thereafter shall elect such committees at the times and for the terms prescribed by law.

**Committees when and how organized.**

**When and with whom list of members and organizations to be filed.**

**Vacancies how filled and statement of changes filed.**

**Election of a ward committee in a re-division of a city into wards.**

**City committee to call caucuses.**

The caucuses for the choice of such ward committees shall be called by the city committee in existence at the time, and shall be subject to such reasonable notice as said city committee shall determine.

**Committees existing, etc., to be deemed organized.**

SECT. 83. Committees of any party existing at the time when such party at an annual state election first polls for governor three per cent. of the entire vote cast in the commonwealth for that office shall be deemed to be organized under these provisions.

### **Rules and Regulations.**

As amended 1902, 492.

**Committees may make rules for their conduct, and regulations for caucuses, to determine membership, etc.**

SECT. 84. A state, city or town committee may make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for its proceedings and relative to caucuses called by it, and may fix the number of persons of whom it shall consist, which number shall be announced in the call for the meeting at which they are to be chosen. Each town or city committee may make reasonable regulations, not inconsistent with law, to determine membership in the party, and to restrain persons not entitled to vote at caucuses from attendance thereat or taking part therein.

**Independent voter not to be excluded from caucuses.**

But no political committee shall prevent any voter from participating in a caucus of its party for the reason that the voter has supported an independent candidate for political office.



PROVISIONS APPLYING  
TO  
ALL CAUCUSES  
OF  
POLITICAL PARTIES.

**Except as provided in this act no caucus entitled to nominate candidates, etc.**

**In districts of more than one town or ward.**

SECT. 85. Except as provided in this chapter, no caucus or meeting shall be entitled to nominate a candidate for public office whose name shall be placed on the official ballot, to elect delegates to a political convention for the nomination of such candidate, to elect delegates to conventions held for the election of delegates to national conventions for the nomination of candidates for president and vice president of the United States, or to choose a political committee.

SECT. 86. No nomination of a candidate to be voted for in an electoral district or division containing more than one town or more than one ward of a city, except a nomination for the office of representative in the general court and, in the suffolk senatorial districts, for the office of senator, and in Boston for the office of alderman, shall be made by a caucus.

SECT. 87. All caucuses of political parties, except for special elections, for the choice of delegates to political conventions which nominate candidates to be voted for at the annual state election, and for the nomination of candidates to be voted for at such election, shall be held throughout the commonwealth on a day designated by the state committee of the political party for which said caucuses are held; and all of said delegates shall be elected, and all of said candidates shall be nominated, at one caucus.

**Caucuses relating to state conventions to be held on one day.**

**All delegates to be chosen at one caucus.**

Such caucuses shall be held at the call of the state committee of the political party whose caucuses are to be held, and the chairman and secretary of the state committee of each political party, shall at least twenty-one days before the date on which the caucuses are to be held, forward a copy of the call, with designation of date, to the chairman and secretary of each city and town committee of their party.

SECT. 88. No two political parties shall hold such caucuses on the same day.

The party first filing with the secretary of the commonwealth the copy of the call as above provided shall be entitled to precedence on the days named.

SECT. 89. Caucuses relative to a special election shall be held at such time and place and subject to such reasonable notice as the political committee whose duty it is to provide for holding the same may determine. Calls therefor shall be issued by the chairman and secretary of said political committee.

SECT. 90. Every caucus of a political party shall be called by a written or printed notice. No caucus or meeting of a political party not so called shall be recognized as valid under this title. It shall be the duty of the presiding officer at a caucus to open such caucus at the hour appointed therefor in the notice thereof.

SECT. 91. Notices for caucuses shall apply to all members of the political party calling them, and to them only.

**committee shall designate dates 21 days before caucuses are to be held.**

**No two parties to hold caucuses same day.**

**Party first filing copy of call entitled to precedence.**

**Special caucuses.**

**No caucus valid unless called by written or printed notice.**

As amended  
1903, 474, 6.

**Caucuses to be opened at appointed hour.**

**To whom notices apply.**

**Persons voting in caucus of one party cannot vote in that of another**

**No voter to be prevented from voting in a caucus if he takes an oath.**

No person having voted in the caucus of one political party shall be entitled to vote or take part in the caucus of another political party within the ensuing twelve months.

No voter shall be prevented from voting or participating in any caucus if he takes the following oath, which shall be administered to him by the presiding officer of the caucus:

**Oath.**

You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you are a registered voter in this ward (or town) and have the legal right to vote in this caucus; that you are a member of the political party holding the same, and intend to vote for its candidates at the polls at the election next ensuing; and that you have not taken part or voted in the caucus of any other political party for twelve months last past.

**Voter may be challenged.**

**Cannot vote until oath is taken.**

**Record to be made.**

**Record to be prima facie evidence.**

**Voting lists to be used as check lists.**

**No person to vote, etc., whose name is not on list.**

Such voter may be challenged like any other voter. Any person whose right to vote is challenged for any cause recognized by law shall not be permitted to vote until he has taken the foregoing oath; and the clerk or secretary of the caucus shall make a record of the administration of said oath to every person who takes the same, which record shall state whether or not said person voted.

Said record shall be returned with the proceedings of said caucus and shall be prima facie evidence in any court that such person took said oath and voted in said caucus.

SECT. 92. In balloting, the voting lists furnished under the provisions of section sixty-seven shall be used as check lists and no person shall be entitled to vote or to take part in a caucus whose name does not appear upon said lists.

SECT. 93. The persons receiving the highest number of votes in a caucus shall be declared elected or nominated.

If there is a tie vote for delegates to a convention, or a place unfilled in a delegation, or a vacancy occasioned by inability or neglect of a delegate elected to attend a convention, such vacancies shall be filled only by vote of the remaining members of the delegation at a meeting called for the purpose. Such meeting shall choose a chairman and secretary, and the secretary shall notify the secretary of the convention of the action taken relative to such vacancy, except that, if only one delegate or two delegates were to be elected, the delegate or the remaining delegate, as the case may be, shall fill such vacancy and notify the secretary of the convention of such action.

If there is a tie vote for members of a town or ward committee, or for caucus officers, the members or caucus officers elected shall fill the vacancy.

If a majority of a delegation of a ward or town committee, or of caucus officers is not elected, or there is a tie vote for candidates for an elective office, the caucus shall at once proceed to another ballot, unless some one present entitled to vote objects; in which case the caucus shall adjourn to any subsequent day. The hour and place shall, if practicable, be the same as that named in the call.

**Plurality to elect.**

**In case of a tie or vote or vacancy for delegates to a convention.**

**Where only one or two delegates are elected.**

**In case of tie vote for ward committee, or caucus officers.**

**When majority is not elected, or there is a tie vote for candidates for elective office.**

**Certificates of election to be sent to all delegates, etc., within three days after caucus is held.**

SECT. 94. The presiding officer and secretary or clerk of each caucus shall within three week days after its final adjournment deliver or send to each delegate to a political convention, to each member of a political committee, and to each caucus officer a certificate of his election, and to each candidate for an elective office a notice of his nomination.

PROVISIONS APPLYING

TO

CAUCUSES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

EXCEPT IN BOSTON

AND

CITIES AND TOWNS WHICH HAVE ADOPTED THE  
PROVISIONS APPLYING TO BOSTON.

**Polling  
places be  
provided  
without  
expense.**

SECT. 95. At least two weeks prior to the date on which the caucuses are to be held, the chairman or secretary of the city or town committee shall notify the aldermen or the selectmen respectively of such date, and said aldermen or selectmen shall, at the expense of the city or town, provide polling places for said caucuses, in case of a city, not less than one for each ward; and shall, at least ten days prior to the date of said caucus, give said chairman or secretary notice of the places so provided.

As amended 1902, 506.  
**Notices of  
caucuses to be  
issued by each  
city and town  
committee  
seven days  
prior to day  
of holding.**

**to be posted  
and  
published.**

**hour of  
calling not  
later than  
8 p. m.**

**temporary  
chairman.**

SECT. 96. Notices of caucuses, signed by the chairman and secretary, shall be issued by each city and town committee not less than seven days prior to the day on which they are to be held. The notices shall state the place where, and the day and hour when, the several caucuses are to be held. They shall be conspicuously posted in at least five places on the highways or streets, and if practicable, in every post office in the city or town, or shall be published at least twice in one or more local newspapers, if there are any. The hour fixed for calling the caucus to order shall not be later than eight o'clock in the evening. The notice shall designate by name or office the person who shall call such caucus to order, and he shall preside until a chairman is chosen. If he is absent at the time appointed, any member of the ward or town committee present shall call the caucus to order and preside until a chairman is



chosen. The first business in order shall be the choice of a chairman, a secretary and such other officers as the meeting may determine. No person shall serve as a caucus officer at any caucus in which he is a candidate for an elective office, or for a nomination to an elective office.

SECT. 97. A ballot shall be taken for the choice of any candidate, delegate or member of a political committee, to be selected by such caucus, and the polls shall be kept open at least thirty minutes.

SECT. 98. The secretary of each caucus shall preserve for ten days all ballots cast and all voting lists used at the caucus. If during said time ten voters entitled to vote in said caucus shall file with him a written request so to do, he shall preserve said ballots and voting lists for three months, and shall produce the same, if required by any court of justice or convention having jurisdiction or authority over the same.

If within three week days after any caucus a person who has received votes thereat for nomination or election to any office, delegation or political committee shall file a statement in writing with the secretary of said caucus claiming an election or nomination, or declaring an intention to contest the election or nomination of any other person, the secretary shall preserve the ballots for such nomination or office until the claim or contest has been finally determined.

**organization  
first in order.**

**Ballot to be  
taken.**

**polls  
to be open  
thirty  
minutes.**

**Secretary of  
caucus to  
keep ballots  
ten days, also  
three months  
upon request  
of ten voters.**

**notice of  
contest, etc.,  
to be made  
within three  
week days.**

**chairman and  
secretary of  
caucus to  
recount  
ballots  
within 24  
hours after  
notice.**

**candidate or  
agent may be  
present.**

The secretary shall immediately give notice in writing to the persons affected, fixing a time within twenty-four hours thereafter and a place at which said ballots will be recounted. The chairman and secretary of the caucus shall, at said time and place, recount said ballots and determine the questions raised. Each candidate affected may be present during such recount, or may be represented by an agent appointed by him in writing. If it shall appear upon a recount that persons were nominated or elected other than those declared to have been nominated or elected, certificates of such change shall be made as in the case of the original certificate.

PROVISIONS APPLYING  
TO  
CAUCUSES OF POLITICAL PARTIES  
IN BOSTON  
AND  
CITIES AND TOWNS WHICH HAVE ADOPTED THE  
PROVISIONS APPLYING TO BOSTON.

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*For special provisions applying to Boston see Joint  
Caucus Act, Chapter 454, Acts of 1903, Page 81.*

**Caucuses in Boston and cities and towns wherein a political party has adopted sections 99 to 131 to be held as therein provided.**

SECT. 99. All caucuses of a political party in the city of Boston for the election of caucus officers, of delegates to any political convention, of a political committee, or of candidates for any state or city election, and all such caucuses in any city or town held by a political party which has therein adopted this and the following thirty-two sections, or the corresponding provisions of earlier laws, shall be called and held as hereinafter provided.

**Political parties in cities and towns may adopt special provisions of said sections.**

SECT. 100. Any city or town committee shall, at the written request of fifty voters, members of its party, call caucuses of said party to determine by ballot whether the special provisions of this chapter applying to caucuses of political parties in Boston and certain cities and towns shall be adopted by said political party in the city or town. The notice of said caucus shall state the purpose for which it is called, the place, the day and the hour, not earlier than six o'clock and not later than half-past seven o'clock in the evening, of holding said caucus. It shall be issued at least seven days prior to the day named therefor, and shall be published at least twice in one or more local newspapers, if there are any, and shall be posted in at least five public places in each ward or town. The polls shall be kept open at least one hour. If said caucuses shall vote to adopt said provisions, all caucuses of said political party in said city or town shall hereafter be called and conducted accordingly.

SECT. 101. A political party in a city or town which has accepted said special provisions may, not less than one year after the date of the caucus wherein such provisions were adopted, revoke such action at a caucus called and held in the manner provided in the preceding section. Upon the adoption of said provisions or upon the revocation of such adoption, the secretary of the city or town committee of such political party shall, within ten days thereafter, file with the secretary of the commonwealth and with the clerk of the city or town and the secretary of the state committee of the political party so voting, a notice thereof.

**Acceptance may be revoked after one year.**

SECT. 102. All such caucuses of a political party for the choice of a political committee in cities, for the choice of candidates for a city or town election, and for the choice of delegates to a convention to nominate candidates for such election, except caucuses relating to a special election, shall be held on the same day in each city and town.

**Caucuses relating to city or town elections to be held on same day.**

The city or town committee shall fix the days for holding all caucuses mentioned in this section, and all calls for the same shall be issued by its chairman and secretary.

**city or town committees to fix days and issue calls.**

No two political parties shall hold their caucuses on the same day.

**No two parties to hold caucuses same day.**

The party first filing a copy of the call for a caucus with the city or town clerk, or in Boston with the election commissioners, shall be entitled to precedence as to the day so fixed.

**Party first filing copy of call entitled to precedence.**

**In Boston no caucus relating to a city election to be called earlier than seven days after annual state election.**

**Notices to be issued eighteen days before caucus.**

**To state when and where nomination papers shall be filed.**

**Polling places to be provided at the expense of the city or town.**

SECT. 103. In Boston no caucus for the choice of candidates or of delegates to a convention to nominate candidates for a city election, except caucuses relating to special elections, shall be called for a date earlier than seven days after the annual state election.

SECT. 104. Notices of caucuses in said cities or towns shall state the place where and the day and hour when nomination papers shall be issued; the place where and the earliest day and hour when such nomination papers may be filed, which time shall be not less than twenty-four week-day hours succeeding three o'clock of the day fixed for issuing such papers; the place where and the day and hour prior to which such nomination papers shall be filed; and the day on which the several caucuses will be held, and shall be issued not less than eighteen days prior thereto.

### Preparation of Polling Places.

SECT. 105. At least two weeks prior to the day named for a caucus, the chairman or secretary of the city or town committee shall give notice of such date to the aldermen or to the selectmen, or in Boston to the election commissioners, who shall, at least ten days prior to such date, notify the city or town committee of the places selected for holding the caucuses, and shall, at the expense of the city or town, provide polling places, in a city not less than one for each ward, and furnish them with booths, registering ballot boxes,

guard rails and the like, as they are arranged for state elections.

If twenty-five voters of a ward or of a town shall request in writing at least twelve days before any caucus of the political party to which they belong, the aldermen or selectmen shall so arrange the polling place of such ward or town as to allow voting to proceed in two or more lines at the caucus.

**Upon request of twenty-five voters to be arranged for voting in two lines.**

### Notices.

SECT. 106. At least seven days prior to the day named for a caucus, the city or town committee shall issue a notice that such caucus will be held, stating the place, the day and the hour of holding the same. The hour shall not be earlier than two o'clock in the afternoon, nor later than half-past seven o'clock in the evening.

**A second notice to be issued seven days before caucus.**

**Hour not to be earlier than 2 P. M. nor later than 7.30 P. M.**

Notices relative to the filing of nomination papers or for caucuses shall be published at least twice in one or more local newspapers if there are any.

**Notice to be published.**

### Nomination Papers Relating to Caucuses.

SECT. 107. The city or town shall provide, and the city or town clerk or election commissioners shall seasonably prepare, for each political party, blank nomination papers for use in the different wards of the city or in the town. Such papers shall state the place where, and the day and hour prior to which, signed nomination papers shall be filed.

**Blank nomination papers to be provided, etc.**

**To state day, place and time of filing, etc.**

On the back of each, sections one hundred and eight to one hundred and fourteen, inclusive shall be printed.

**To be delivered to chairman or secretary of political committee only.**

**Nominations to be made by nomination papers.**

**Papers to be signed by five legal voters, members of the party.**

**Signers to add residence.**

As amended  
1903, 474, 7.

**In districts of more than one ward or town.**

**Number of names limited.**

They shall be delivered to the chairman or secretary of the political committee for whose use they have been prepared, and to no other person.

SECT. 108. Nominations of candidates for elective offices, for delegates to a convention, for caucus officers, and for a ward or town committee to be voted for at a caucus, shall be made by nomination papers, as hereinafter provided. Such nominations shall be made on the blank nomination papers prepared and delivered in accordance with the preceding section; and no nomination paper offered for filing shall be received or shall be valid to which is attached any card, paper or other device containing the name of a candidate, his written acceptance, or the signature of any voter required by this section.

Such papers shall be signed in person by at least five voters of the ward or town in which the caucus is to be held, who shall be members of the political party holding the caucus, and who shall add to their signatures the street and number, if any, of their residences.

Such papers for a district composed of more than one ward or town shall be signed by a number of voters equal in the aggregate to not less than five voters for each ward or town in said district.

Nomination papers shall not contain a larger number of names of candidates than there are persons to be elected.



No nomination paper shall be valid in respect to any candidate whose written acceptance is not thereon.

No vacancy caused by the death, withdrawal or ineligibility of any of the above candidates shall be filled in the manner provided by law, unless the person entitled to fill such vacancy files the written acceptance of the candidate who is nominated to fill the vacancy.

SECT. 109. The nomination paper for an elective office shall give the name of the candidate, the street and number, if any, of his residence, and may, in not more than eight words, state his occupation, the public offices he has held, or any other information whereby his identity may be established, and his qualifications for the office to be filled, or his position on any public measure.

The nomination paper of a candidate for a caucus office or for a ward or town committee shall state the street and number, if any, of his residence.

There may be added to the name of a person proposed as a delegate to a convention, a statement of not more than eight words that he is favorable to, or is pledged to support, or to oppose, any person for an office to be filled, or is favorable to, or opposed to, any public measure, or is uncommitted.

If, under the provisions of this section, any delegate or set of delegates is described on a nomination paper as favorable to, or pledged to support, any person for an office to be filled, such person may, within two

**Paper not valid without written acceptance of candidate.**

As amended  
1903, 474, 7.

**Vacancies.**

**Information relative to a candidate for an elective office may be given in not more than eight words.**

**Residence of caucus officers, etc., to be given.**

**Personal preferences of candidates for delegates may be given in not more than eight words.**

week days of the announcement thereof, file with the secretary of the city or town committee a written request to have said statement stricken from the nomination paper, and the secretary shall do the same forthwith, and said nomination paper shall thereupon be void and of no effect.

**Papers to be filed with secretary ten week-days previous to caucus.**

**Time received by him to be endorsed upon same.**

**To be publicly opened and announced.**

**In case of error.**

"The words 'error, irregularity or informality,' cannot refer to anything the absence of which another section declares; in effect, makes the paper invalid."— Decision of Judge Lothrop, Dean et al vs. Sands, Sept. 20, 1898.

**In case of non-receipt in a city.**

SECT. 110. All nomination papers shall be sealed up and filed in the office of the secretary of the city or town committee not less than ten week days previous to the day on which the caucus is to be held for which the nominations are made, and the secretary shall endorse upon them the time at which they are received by him.

They shall not be opened until the time for their filing has expired, when the secretary, at his office, shall publicly open them and publicly announce the nominations therein made.

SECT. 111. The secretary of the city or town committee shall immediately give notice to the person filing the nomination paper of any error, irregularity or informality appearing therein, and such person may, within two week days of the time when the nomination papers were opened, correct the same, or said secretary may make such correction.

SECT. 112. If, in a city, nomination papers placing persons in nomination for all the offices to be filed at a caucus in any ward, are not filed, the secretary of the city committee shall forthwith notify the chairman or secretary of the committee of such ward, who

shall forthwith call a meeting of said committee, which may nominate candidates for all offices for which nomination papers have not been filed, and shall immediately file with the secretary of the city committee nomination papers signed by all the members of the committee who agree to the nominations therein made. In case of disagreement two sets of such nomination papers may be filed. If, at the expiration of two week days after the time at which nomination papers were opened, proper nomination papers have not been filed for all the offices to be filled, or upon any vacancy caused by death or otherwise, except a withdrawal, the chairman and secretary of the city committee may file nomination papers for such offices or vacancies.

**In case  
nomination  
papers have  
not been filed.**

SECT. 113. If, in a town, nomination papers placing persons in nomination for all the offices to be filled at a caucus are not filed, or upon a vacancy by death or otherwise, except a withdrawal, the chairman or secretary of the town committee shall forthwith call a meeting of said committee, which shall have all the powers relative to the nomination of candidates conferred in the preceding section upon a ward committee and the chairman and secretary of a city committee.

**In case of  
non-receipt  
in a town.**

SECT. 114. A person who is nominated by a nomination paper may, within forty-eight week day hours succeeding five o'clock of the day fixed for opening nomination papers, withdraw his name from nomination by a request in writing signed by him with his own

**In case of  
withdrawal  
by person  
nominated.**

hand and filed with the secretary of the city or town committee. Thereupon, the secretary shall immediately give notice of such withdrawal and of the provisions of this section to the person who filed such nomination paper, and such person may, within twenty-four week-day hours succeeding five o'clock of the last day fixed for making withdrawals, present a new name on a nomination paper signed by himself with his own hand; otherwise the chairman and secretary of the city or town committee may file nomination papers for the vacancy.

**Seven week-days before a caucus, papers to be sent to city or town officials, before five P. M.**

SECT. 115. Not less than seven week days before the day upon which the caucuses are to be held and before five o'clock in the afternoon of the last day, the secretary of each city or town committee shall deliver to the city or town clerk, or in Boston to the election commissioners, the nomination papers filed with him.

**To correct errors, etc.**

SECT. 116. If an error or informality is found in any nomination paper, it shall be forthwith returned to the secretary of the committee by whom it was filed, for correction; and if it is not corrected and again filed before five o'clock in the afternoon of the day following its return to said secretary, it shall be void.

#### **Preparation and Form of Ballots.**

**City to provide and officials to prepare ballots.**

SECT. 117. The city or town shall provide and the city or town clerk, or in Boston the election commissioners, shall prepare ballots to be used in caucuses, in accordance with

the provisions of this chapter, and no other ballots shall be received or counted.

No ballots as herein provided shall be printed in any printing establishment owned or managed by the city of Boston.

The chairman and secretary of the city or town committee may determine the number of ballots to be provided for each ward or town, not exceeding one for each voter therein. If they fail so to do, the city or town clerk, or in Boston the election commissioners, shall determine the number.

At least six facsimile copies of the ballot, printed on colored paper, shall be provided for each polling place as specimen ballots.

SECT. 118. At the top of each ballot shall be printed the words "The official ballot of (here shall follow the party name)." On the back and outside of each ballot when folded shall be printed the words "Official ballot of the (here shall be inserted the party name)," followed by the number of the ward or the name of the town for which the ballot is prepared, the date of the caucus and a facsimile of the signature of the secretary of the political committee.

Names of candidates for each elective office shall be arranged alphabetically according to their surnames.

Names of candidates for caucus officers, for ward or town committees, and for delegates to conventions shall be arranged in groups in the order in which they are filed.

**No others to be used.**

**No ballots to be printed in city printing office.**

**Officers of committees may determine number of ballots.**

**In case of failure.**

**Facsimile copies for each polling place.**

**Form of ballot.**

**Certain words, etc., to be printed on front and back.**

**Arrangement of names on ballot.**

**candidates for delegates and committees to be grouped in order of filing.**

**Residence of candidate, except for delegate, to be printed.**

Against the name of a candidate for a caucus office, for an elective office, or for a ward or town committee, shall be printed the street and number, if any, of his residence.

**Information about candidates to be printed.**

Against the name of a candidate for an elective office or for a political convention shall be printed the statement contained in the nomination paper placing him in nomination.

**Only names duly nominated to be printed.**

No names shall be printed on a ballot other than those presented on nomination papers.

**Blank spaces for inserting other names to be provided.**

Immediately following the names of candidates, blank spaces equal to the number of persons to be chosen shall be provided for the insertion of other names.

**Number to be voted for to be stated.**

The number of persons to be voted for for the different offices shall be stated on the ballot.

**A star (\*) indicates a candidate for re-election. Form and arrangement of ballots same in general as at state elections.**

A star (\*) against a name shall indicate that a person is a candidate for re-election.

The form of ballots and the arrangement of printed matter thereon shall be in general the same as that of the official state ballots, except as herein otherwise provided.

### **Manner of Voting.**

**A cross (X) against a name constitutes a vote.**

SECT. 119. A cross (X) marked against a name shall constitute a vote for the person so designated.

**A cross at head of group of candidates to count as vote for each.**

A cross in the circle at the head of an entire group of candidates for delegates to a convention shall count as a vote for each candidate therein.

A voter may vote for one or more candidates in any such group by marking a cross against the name of each such candidate, or he may insert another name and mark a cross against it.

If he votes for more candidates than the number to be elected, his vote shall not be counted.

**Candidates may be voted for singly or other names inserted.**

**If more names are marked than candidates, vote not to be counted.**

### Delivery of Ballots, Etc.

SECT. 120. The city or town clerk, or in Boston the election commissioners, before the opening of the polls on the day of the caucus, shall, at the expense of the city or town, prepare and deliver at the polling place to the warden or, if he is not present, to the clerk or, if both are absent, then to any inspector, ballot boxes, the ballots, specimen ballots, voting lists, suitable blank forms, and apparatus for canvassing and counting the ballots and making the returns, a seal of suitable device, and a record book for each polling place.

**City or town officials to deliver ballots, voting list, etc., at polling place.**

**Blanks, seals, and record book, etc., to be furnished.**

The presiding officer at each polling place shall, before the opening of the caucus, conspicuously post in such polling place at least six specimen ballots, which shall be kept so posted until the polls are closed.

**Six specimen ballots to be posted in polling place.**

### Conduct of Caucuses.

SECT. 121. Caucuses, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be held in general accordance with the provisions of law for the conduct of elections and the manner of voting thereat.

**Caucuses to be conducted in general as at elections.**

**Order of  
business.**

**Balloting till  
8.30 P. M.  
unless time is  
extended.**

**Voters in line  
must be  
allowed to  
vote.**

**If right of  
person to vote  
is challenged  
proceedings  
as at general  
elections.**

**No officer to  
give  
information  
in regard to a  
ballot cast.**

**Ballots not to  
be counted  
till polls are  
closed.  
In full view of  
voters.**

SECT. 122. The order of business shall be as follows:

First. Any necessary preliminary business.

Second. Balloting until half-past eight o'clock in the evening, when the polls shall be closed unless the caucus shall vote to keep them open until a later hour; but every voter waiting in line at the hour for closing the polls shall be allowed to vote.

Third. After the polls have been closed, any other business which is properly before the caucus.

SECT. 123. If the right of a person offering to vote is challenged for any legal cause, the presiding officer shall require him, or some one in his behalf, to write his name and residence on the outside of the ballot offered, and before it is received the presiding officer shall add thereto the name of the person challenging and the cause alleged for the challenge; but no caucus officer shall receive any ballot which by law he is required to refuse. No officer, or other person shall give any information in regard to a ballot cast by a challenged voter unless required by law so to do.

### Counting of Ballots.

SECT. 124. Immediately after the polls have been declared closed, but not before, the ballots shall be counted in full view of the voters.

When they have been counted and the result has been ascertained, the presiding of-



ficer shall make public announcement thereof in open meeting, and the clerk shall, in open meeting, enter in words at length in the record book, the total number of names checked on the voting list, the total number of ballots cast, the names of all persons voted for, the number of votes for each person, and the title of the delegation or office for which he was a candidate.

The clerk shall forthwith make a copy of said record, certify and seal the same, and transmit it to the city or town clerk, or in Boston to the election commissioners. He shall then, before the adjournment of the caucus, and in the presence of those who counted the same, seal up all ballots cast, with the voting lists used, and a statement of any challenge which may have been made.

The warden and clerk shall endorse upon such package the name of the political party holding the caucus, its date, its purpose, and, if in a city, for what ward the ballots were cast. The warden shall forthwith transmit, by the officer detailed to attend the caucus, to the city or town clerk, or in Boston to the election commissioners, the ballots cast, the voting lists, the ballot boxes, the ballot box seals, the counting apparatus, the copy of the records, and the record book.

The city or town clerk or election commissioners shall safely keep such sealed packages for ten days. If within said time ten voters entitled to vote in said caucus file with them a written request so to do, they shall pre-

**Result to be publicly announced.**

**Record of result to be made and sent to election commissioners.**

**Before adjournment clerk to seal up all ballots, check lists, etc.**

**To make indorsement of certain facts on the sealed package.**

**Warden to transmit package.**

**Officials to keep all sealed packages for ten days or upon request three months, etc.**

serve said ballots and voting lists for three months and shall produce them if required by any court or convention having jurisdiction or authority over the same.

**In Boston election commissioners to furnish a copy of voting list used at a caucus.**

SECT. 125. The city or town clerk, and in Boston the election commissioners, upon written application, signed by at least ten voters of a ward or town, for a copy of the list as checked, may open the envelope containing the voting list used at any caucus in such ward or town and shall furnish to them a certified copy thereof as checked.

#### **Recount of Ballots.**

**Request for recount must be made before 5 P. M. of second day after caucus, by ten or more voters.**

SECT. 126. If before five o'clock in the afternoon of the second day next succeeding the day of any caucus ten or more voters of any town or ward shall sign, adding thereto their respective residences on the first day of May of that year, and file with the city or town clerk, or in Boston with the election commissioners, a statement under oath that the records and returns made by the caucus officers of such town or ward are erroneous, specifying the error, or that challenged votes were cast by persons not entitled to vote therein, said city or town clerk shall forthwith transmit such statement to the registrars of voters with the sealed packages containing the ballots and voting lists, and said registrars or election commissioners shall give notice in writing to the person affected, fixing a place and time, as early as may be, at which said ballots will be re-

**Notice to be given of place and time of recount.**

counted and at such place and time shall open the packages containing the ballots and voting lists and recount said ballots and determine the questions raised, and shall reject any challenged vote cast by a person found not to have been entitled to vote; and such recount shall stand as the true result of the vote cast in such caucus. Each candidate affected may be present during such recount, or may be represented by an agent appointed by him in writing. If it shall appear upon a recount that persons were nominated or elected other than those declared to have been nominated or elected, certificates of such change shall be made as in the case of the original certificate.

**Candidate or agent may be present.**

#### Caucus Officers.

SECT. 127. At the caucus held for the choice of delegates to the state convention there shall be chosen annually a warden, a clerk, and at least five inspectors, and, in wards having more than five precincts, such additional inspectors as the city committee of the political party whose caucuses are to be held may determine.

**Chosen annually.**

**Names and number.**

They shall be voters of the ward or town in which they are elected and members of the political party whose caucus is to be held.

**Qualification.**

No person shall be eligible to the position of warden or clerk or inspector who is a state, county or city employee, or who is a member of a ward or town committee, and

**Certain persons not eligible.**

no person shall serve as a caucus officer at any caucus wherein he is a candidate for a nomination to an elective office, or for ward or town committee.

**Term of office.**

Every caucus officer shall hold office for one year, beginning with the first day of October succeeding his election, and until his successor is elected.

**To be sworn.**

He shall, before entering upon the performance of his duties, be sworn to the faithful performance thereof by the warden, clerk, or a justice of the peace, and a record of such oath shall be made upon the record book of such caucus.

**Record to be made.**

**Duties same in general as required of election officers.**

The respective duties of caucus officers shall be in general the same as are required of election officers at elections.

**Special provisions for additional officers.**

SECT. 128. If prior to the third day preceding a caucus of a political party in the city of Boston fifty voters entitled to participate therein petition the board of election commissioners of Boston for additional caucus officers, said board shall provide additional officers for said caucus in the following manner: every elective candidate and every person filing a nomination paper for a delegation may present to said board the names of not exceeding four persons. From these names said board shall, in the presence of those presenting said names, draw the names of five persons who shall be admitted behind the guard rail during the caucus, shall be authorized to supervise the checking of names

and the conduct of the caucus in general, and may witness the count at the close of the caucus.

SECT. 129. A majority of the caucus officers present at a caucus, may fill temporary vacancies and elect additional officers to serve in that caucus only. Such temporary officers shall be duly sworn.

**Temporary vacancies.**

**Temporary officers.**

**To be sworn.**

Permanent vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of all the caucus officers.

**Permanent vacancies to be filled by remaining officers.**

SECT. 130. A city or town committee of a political party adopting the special provisions of this chapter applying to caucuses in Boston and certain cities and towns shall, at least ten days before holding any caucus thereunder, appoint caucus officers in each ward or town to serve at the first caucus to be held thereafter.

SECT. 131. In a newly incorporated city, or upon a re-division into wards of a city to which the provisions of said sections apply, the caucus officers to serve in the caucuses held in the next succeeding year shall be appointed by the city committee; and at such caucuses the regular caucus officers shall be chosen.

**In a newly incorporated city or upon re-division of a city into wards.**

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*For provisions applying to caucuses OTHER THAN THOSE OF POLITICAL PARTIES see Sections 132-135, Revised Laws, Chapter 11.*

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For “An Act Relative to Municipal Parties in the City of Cambridge,” see Acts of 1902, Chapter 529.

**Nominations  
by caucus and  
convention.**

SECT. 136. A convention of delegates or a caucus held in accordance with the provisions of this chapter for the commonwealth, or for a district, county, city, town or ward may make one nomination for each office to be filled at an election therein, and shall be entitled to have the names of its candidates placed upon the official ballot upon filing a certificate of nomination as hereinafter provided.

**Special  
provisions.**

A party may make a nomination for an office to be filled by election in the commonwealth, or in any district, county, city, town or ward, when at the five preceding annual elections it polled in the commonwealth, or in such district, county, city, town or ward, respectively, a number of votes for governor equal to the votes required to nominate by nomination papers a candidate for the office so to be filled.

**Relative to the Nomination and Election  
of Senators and Members of State  
Committees in the Suffolk Sena-  
torial Districts.**

As amended 1903,  
474, 8.

**Nomination  
papers to be  
signed by  
five regis-  
tered voters,  
members of  
the party of  
each ward  
and town in  
the district.**

SECT. 137. Candidates for senator and member of the state committee for each of the Suffolk senatorial districts to be nominated or elected by direct plurality vote in caucuses of the party held in every such ward and town, and the person who in the aggregate of all the ballots cast at all such caucuses in each district for such candidate for senator shall receive the

highest number of such votes shall be the candidate nominated, and the person who in the aggregate of all the ballots cast at all such caucuses in each district for such member shall receive the highest number of such votes shall be the member elected.

The nomination paper of a candidate for member of a state committee shall state the street and number, if any, of his residence, and against the name of such candidate shall be printed on the ballot the street and number, if any, of his residence.

SECT. 138. All such ballots, except those cast in the city of Chelsea, in the towns of Revere and Winthrop and in ward three in the city of Cambridge, and returns of the results of such ballots cast in all said districts, except as aforesaid, shall forthwith be returned to the election commissioners of the city of Boston, as ballots cast in elections in said city and returns relative thereto are returned; and the clerks of the several caucuses in the city of Chelsea, in the towns of Revere and Winthrop and in ward three in the city of Cambridge shall make returns of the results of such ballots cast in said city, towns and ward, to the city and town clerks of their respective cities and towns on or before twelve o'clock noon, of the day following the last day fixed by law for filing a petition for a recount of ballots, if no such petition has been

**Senators to be nominated and member of state committee to be elected by direct plurality vote.**

**Nomination paper and ballot to state residence.**

**Return of votes, to whom made and when.**

filed, or, if such petition has been filed, on or before twelve o'clock, noon, of the day following the day upon which the ballots have been recounted and the results finally determined. For the purpose of tabulating and determining the results of all such ballots and returns in the several Suffolk districts the chairman of the election commissioners of the city of Boston, the city clerk of the city of Chelsea, and the town clerks of the towns of Revere and Winthrop, shall constitute a canvassing board for the first district; the election commissioners of the city of Boston and the city clerk of the city of Cambridge shall constitute such board for the second district; and the election commissioners of the city of Boston shall constitute such board for the remaining districts. Said canvassing boards shall meet for such purpose at the office of the election commissioners in Boston at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the Monday preceding the day on which certificates of nomination for senator are required by law to be filed with the secretary of the commonwealth. Said canvassing boards shall tabulate and determine the results of all such ballots and returns, and each canvassing board shall certify to the facts required by law in certificates of nomination for senator, and shall file such certificates with the sec-

**Canvassing  
boards to  
determine  
results.**

**How consti-  
tuted.**

**Time and place  
of meeting.**

**Shall certify  
to facts and  
file certifi-  
cates.**



retary of the commonwealth on or before the Thursday provided by law for filing such certificates of nomination, shall furnish to the members elected as aforesaid certificates of their election, and shall send to the secretary of the state committee of each political party holding such caucuses the names and residences of such members. The secretary of the commonwealth shall place on the official ballots to be used at state elections the names of all candidates for senator nominated as aforesaid.

SECT. 139. All provisions of law relative to the preparation of nomination papers and ballots, to caucuses and elections, to ballots cast at caucuses and elections, to recounts of such ballots, and to certificates of nomination of candidates for senator, shall, so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of the two preceding sections, apply to the caucuses therein named, the ballots cast thereat, the returns relative to such ballots, the recounts of such ballots, and the certificates of nomination made as aforesaid.

### Conventions.

SECT. 140. No convention to nominate candidates for any state or city office shall be called for or held on a date earlier than four days after the holding of the caucuses for the choice of delegates thereto, and all such conventions shall be called for and held

**Secretary of Commonwealth to place names of senators nominated on ballots.**

**All provisions of law relating to nomination papers, ballots, caucuses, etc., to apply.**

**No convention to be called or held earlier than four days after a caucus.**

on a date not later than forty-eight hours prior to the hour for filing certificates of nomination as provided in section one hundred and forty-eight.

**representative conventions not to be called or held earlier than a certain date.**

No representative convention shall be called for or held on a date earlier than seven days after the date designated for holding caucuses by the state committee of the political party whose representative convention is to be held.

**Nominations in a convention (except state) to be made by roll call by vote of one-fourth of the delegates.**

SECT. 141. At a political convention not held for the nomination of candidates for any offices to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth, by vote of one fourth of the delegates present the nomination of any candidate shall be made by roll call in the following manner: the secretary of the convention shall call the roll of the towns and cities in alphabetical order or of wards in a city in numerical order, and each delegate shall, as his name is called, state in the hearing of the convention the name of the candidate for whom he desires to vote, and the person receiving a majority of votes on such roll call shall be the candidate of the convention.

**Majority of votes required.**

**Certificates of nomination to state certain facts.**

SECT. 142. Every certificate of nomination shall state such facts as are required by section one hundred and forty-six and shall be signed by the presiding officer and by the secretary of the convention or caucus, who shall add to their signatures their residences, and shall make oath to the truth thereof.

**Oath of officers.**

The secretary of the convention or caucus shall within the seventy-two hours succeeding five o'clock in the afternoon of the day upon which the convention or caucus was held and within the time specified in section one hundred and forty-eight, file such certificate as hereinafter provided.

**Secretary to file certificate within 72 hours.**

### **Nomination Papers Relating to Elections.**

SECT. 143. Nominations of candidates for any offices to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth may be made by nomination papers, stating the facts required by section one hundred and forty-six, and signed in the aggregate by not less than one thousand voters for each candidate.

**1,000 signatures to be on nomination papers for officers voted for by all voters.**

Nominations of all other candidates for offices to be filled at a state election, and of all candidates for offices to be filled at a city election, may be made by like nomination papers, signed in the aggregate, for each candidate, by one voter for every one hundred votes cast for governor at the preceding annual state election in the electoral district or division for which the officers are to be elected, but in no case by less than fifty qualified voters.

**Other state and city officers, one for every 100 votes cast in district at annual election, but not less than 50.**

Nomination of candidates for offices to be filled at a town election may be made by nomination papers, signed by at least one voter for every fifty votes polled for governor at the preceding annual state election in such town, but in no case by less than twenty voters.

**town elections, one for every 50, etc., but not less than 20.**

**Special provisions in newly established wards.**

**Voter's signature, residence, number of nominations, etc.**

**Women may sign papers for school committee.**

**Nomination papers, registrar's certificate, etc.**

At a first election to be held in a newly established ward of a city, the number of voters upon a nomination paper of a candidate who is to be voted for only in such ward need not exceed fifty; and at a first election in a town the number for the nomination of a candidate who is to be voted for only in such town need not exceed twenty.

SECT. 144. Every voter who signs a nomination paper shall sign it in person, with his full surname, his Christian name and the initial of every other name which he may have, and shall add his residence, with the street and number thereof, if any, to his signature; but any voter who is prevented by a physical disability from writing or who had the right to vote on the first day of May in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, may authorize some person to write his name and residence in his presence; and every voter may sign as many nomination papers for each office to be filled as there are persons to be elected thereto, and no more.

Women who are qualified to vote may sign nomination papers for candidates for the school committee.

Every nomination paper shall, before being filed, be seasonably submitted to the registrars of the city or town in which the signers appear to be voters, and in Boston to the election commissioners, who shall forthwith certify thereon the number of signatures which are names of voters both in the city

or town and in the district or division for which the nomination is made. They need not certify a greater number of names than are required to make a nomination, with one-fifth of such number added thereto. Names not certified in the first instance shall not thereafter be certified on the same nomination papers. The secretary of the commonwealth shall not be required in any case to file nomination papers for a candidate after filing such papers containing a sufficient number of certified names to make a nomination, with one-fifth of such number added thereto. One of the signers to each nomination paper shall make oath to the truth of the statements therein, and the certification of such oath and the post office address of the signer shall be annexed to such paper.

**Oath of  
signer, etc.**

SECT. 145. A notary public, justice of the peace or other magistrate, when taking the oath of a signer of a nomination paper, shall satisfy himself that the person to whom the oath is administered is the person signing such nomination paper, and shall so state in his attestation of said oath.

**Duties of  
notaries, etc.,  
when taking  
signer's oath.**

### **Certificates of Nomination and Nomination Papers.**

SECT. 146. All certificates of nomination and nomination papers shall, in addition to the names of candidates, specify as to each: (1) his residence with street and number thereof, if any; (2) the office for which he is

**Contents of  
certificates  
and papers.**

nominated; and (3), except as hereinafter provided, the party or political principle which he represents, expressed in not more than three words. Certificates of nomination shall also state what provision, if any, was made by the caucus or convention for filling vacancies caused by the death, withdrawal or ineligibility of candidates. The names of the candidates for president and vice-president of the United States may be added to the party or political designation of the candidates for presidential electors. To the name of each candidate for the office of alderman at large shall be added the number of the ward in which he resides.

**Candidates  
other than  
those of a  
political  
party.**

If a candidate is nominated otherwise than by a political party, the name of a political party shall not be used in his political designation, except as describing and preceding some other name or term, which shall not be the name of any party which cast at the last preceding election more than three thousand votes for governor; and if so used in case of a candidate nominated by a nomination paper, the political designation shall consist of not more than two words, shall not be changed after having been placed upon the paper, and to it shall be added the words "nomination paper," or, as abbreviated, "nom. paper." Certificates of nomination and nomination papers for town offices may or may not include a designation of the party or principle which the candidate represents.

SECT. 147. Certificates of nomination and nomination papers for state offices shall be filed with the secretary of the commonwealth; and for city and town offices with the city or town clerk; and in Boston with the election commissioners.

**Nomination papers, with whom to be filed.**

Every nomination paper shall be filed by a responsible person, who shall with his own hand sign such paper and add to his signature his place of residence, giving street and number, if any; and the secretary of the commonwealth or the city or town clerk, or, in Boston, the election commissioners, shall require a satisfactory identification of such person.

**To be filed by responsible persons, etc.**

No nomination paper shall be received or be valid unless the written acceptance of the candidate thereby nominated shall be filed therewith.

**Written acceptance of candidate to be filed with paper.**

SECT. 148. Certificates of nomination for offices to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth shall be filed on or before the fifth Monday, and nomination papers on or before the fourth Monday, preceding the day of the election. Certificates of nomination for all other candidates for office, to be filled at a state election shall be filed on or before the third Thursday, and nomination papers, on or before the third Friday, preceding the day of the election; but if there is a special election to fill any state office, certificates of nomination shall be filed on or before the twelfth day, and nomination papers,

**Last days for filing papers for state offices.**

on or before the eleventh day, preceding the day of such election.

**in cities,  
except Boston,**

In cities, except Boston, certificates of nomination for city offices shall be filed on or before the third Monday, and nomination papers, on or before the second Wednesday, preceding the day of the election.

**in Boston for  
city offices.**

In Boston certificates of nomination for city offices shall be filed on or before the third Friday, and nomination papers, on or before the third Saturday, preceding the day of the election.

**in towns for  
town offices.**

In towns, certificates of nomination for town offices shall be filed on or before the second Saturday, and nomination papers, on or before the Monday, preceding the day of the election; but if such Saturday falls on a legal holiday, said certificates of nomination shall be filed on or before the preceding day, and if such Monday falls on a legal holiday, said nomination papers shall be filed on or before the succeeding day; but if a town election is held on a day of the week other than Monday, such certificates of nomination and nomination papers shall be filed respectively on or before the ninth and seventh days preceding the day of the election.

**special  
provisions.**

**Papers to be  
filed before  
5 P. M. of  
last day.**

Certificates of nomination and nomination papers shall be filed before five o'clock in the afternoon of the last day fixed for the filing thereof.

SECT. 149. When certificates of nomination and nomination papers have been filed,



and are in apparent conformity with law, they shall be valid unless objections thereto are made in writing.

**Nominations  
valid unless  
objected to, etc.**

Such objections to nominations of candidates for state offices and city offices shall be filed with the secretary of the commonwealth or the city clerk, or in Boston the election commissioners, respectively, within the seventy-two hours succeeding five o'clock of the last day fixed for the filing of nomination papers for such office.

**Consideration  
of objections.**

Such objections to nominations of candidates for town offices shall be filed with the town clerk within the twenty-four hours succeeding five o'clock of the last day fixed for the filing of nomination papers for such office.

**when filed.**

SECT. 150. Objections to certificates of nomination and nomination papers for state offices, and all other questions relating thereto, shall be considered by the state ballot law commission; to nominations for city offices, except in Boston, by the board of registrars, the city clerk and the city solicitor; in Boston, by the ballot law commission of said city; and to nominations for town offices, by the board of registrars.

**Objections to  
certificate, etc.,  
by whom  
considered.**

The boards constituted in cities and towns may, at hearings on such objections and questions, summon witnesses, administer oaths, and require the production of books and papers. Such witnesses shall be summoned in the same manner, be paid the same fees, and be subject to the same penalties for

**Proceedings.**

default, as witnesses before the superior court. A summons may be signed and an oath may be administered by any member of such board, and the decision of a majority of the members thereof shall be final.

**Candidates  
and  
committees  
to be notified.**

When such objection has been filed, notice thereof shall be forthwith mailed by the secretary of the commonwealth, or by the city or town clerk, or election commissioners, respectively, to the candidates affected thereby, addressed to their residences as given in the certificates of nomination or nomination papers, and to any party committee interested in the nomination to which objection is made.

**When several  
candidates  
have same  
designation.**

If more candidates bearing the same political or other designation are nominated for an office, otherwise than by nomination papers, than are to be elected thereto, such boards shall determine the candidates, if any, entitled to such designation.

**Withdrawals.**

SECT. 151. A person nominated as a candidate for any state or city office may withdraw his name from nomination by a request in writing signed by him and acknowledged before a justice of the peace and filed with the officer with whom the nomination was filed, within the seventy-two hours succeeding five o'clock of the last day fixed for the filing of nomination papers for such office.

**Vacancies.**

SECT. 152. If a candidate nominated for a state, city or town office dies before the day of election, withdraws his name from nom-

ination, or is found ineligible, the vacancy may be filled by the same political party or persons who made the original nomination, and in the same manner; or, if the time is insufficient therefor, the vacancy may be filled, if the nomination was made by a convention or caucus, in such manner as the convention or caucus may have prescribed, or, if no such provision has been made, by a regularly elected general or executive committee representing the political party or persons who held such convention or caucus. If a vacancy is caused by withdrawal, certificates of nomination made otherwise than in the original manner shall be filed within seventy-two hours succeeding five o'clock of the last day fixed for filing withdrawals. They shall be open to objection in the same manner, as far as practicable, as other certificates of nomination. No vacancy caused by withdrawal shall be filled before the withdrawal has been filed.

SECT. 153. When a nomination is made to fill a vacancy caused by the death, withdrawal or ineligibility of a candidate, the certificate of nomination shall, in addition to the other facts required, state the name of the original nominee, the fact of his death, withdrawal or ineligibility, and the proceedings had for filling the vacancy; and the presiding officer and secretary of the convention or caucus, or the chairman and secretary of an authorized committee, shall sign and make oath to the

**Certificate of  
nomination  
in case of a  
vacancy.**

truth of the certificate, and it shall be accompanied by the written acceptance of the candidate nominated.

**All papers to be open to the public.**

SECT. 154. Certificates of nomination, nomination papers, objections thereto and withdrawals, when filed, shall, under proper regulations, be open to public inspection, and the secretary of the commonwealth and the several city and town clerks, and in Boston, the election commissioners, shall preserve the same in their respective offices for one year.

**To be preserved.**

**Blank forms to be provided.**

SECT. 155. The secretary of the commonwealth shall, upon application, provide blank forms for the nomination of candidates for all state offices; and he shall send blank forms for certificates of nomination for the office of representative in the general court to the clerk of each city and town for the use of any caucus or convention held therein for the nomination of candidates for that office. He shall likewise provide the clerks of towns, wherein official ballots are used, with blank forms for the nomination of candidates for town offices.

#### **State Ballot Law Commission.**

**State Ballot Law Commission.**

SECT. 156. There shall be a state ballot law commission consisting of three persons, one of whom shall annually in June or July be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the council, for a term of three years from the succeeding first day of August. The governor with the advice and

**To consist of three persons.**

consent of the council may remove any member of the commission, or fill any vacancy therein for the remainder of the unexpired term. There shall always be on said commission a member of each of the two leading political parties.

SECT. 157. No member of said commission shall hold any public office except that of justice of the peace or notary public, or be a candidate for public office, or member or employee of any political committee. If any member of the commission shall be nominated as a candidate for public office and shall not in writing decline said nomination within three days, he shall be deemed to have vacated his office as a member of said commission.

**Qualification  
of members.**

SECT. 158. The state ballot law commission may summon witnesses, and administer to them oaths, and may require the production of books and papers at a hearing before it upon any matter within its jurisdiction. Witnesses shall be summoned in the same manner, be paid the same fees, and be subject to the same penalties as witnesses summoned before the general court. A summons may be signed and an oath may be administered by any member of said commission.

**Powers of  
Commission.**

SECT. 159. The decision of a majority of the members of the commission upon any matter within its jurisdiction shall be final.

**Decision of  
majority  
to be final.**

**By whom  
provided.**

SECT. 226. City and town clerks may provide, for use at caucuses and elections, as many stamps as there are marking compartments at each polling place. The design of the stamps for caucuses shall be the number of the ward, with a cross, thus: X 7, and for elections the number of the ward and precinct, with cross, thus: X 7/9.

**How used.**

At caucuses and elections for which such stamps are provided, they shall be used by all voters in marking their ballots, and ballots not so marked shall not be counted, but ballots from which the stamp mark has been erased with pencil or other device shall be counted as though no erasure had been made. The caucus or precinct clerk shall have the custody of such stamps, and shall, before the opening of the caucus or polls, in the presence of the voters and caucus or precinct officers, cause such stamps to be chained to each marking compartment; and he shall, immediately after the polls are closed and before the ballots are removed from the ballot box, and in the presence of the voters and caucus or precinct officers, place said stamps in a box, which shall be locked and sealed, and be by him returned to the city or town clerk or to the election commissioners. In Boston, the police officer in attendance at each caucus or voting precinct shall have the custody of the stamps and perform the duties connected therewith imposed on the precinct clerks in other cities.

**Custody.**

\*SECT. 270. The secretary of the commonwealth, the treasurer and receiver general and the auditor of accounts shall at such times, under such conditions, and after such public notice as they shall determine, examine voting and counting machines and apparatus; and they shall certify their approval of such machines as, in their judgment, furnish convenient, simple and satisfactory means of voting and of ascertaining the true result thereof with facility and accuracy, special regard being given to the prevention and detection of double voting; but no machine shall be approved which does not secure to the voter as much secrecy in voting as is afforded by the use of the official ballot. No machine except such as is approved in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be used at any election or caucus in this commonwealth; nor shall any such machines be used except in accordance with the provisions of this and the three following sections.

SECT. 271. A city or town may, at a meeting held not less than ten days before the annual city election in a city and before the annual town meeting in a town, determine upon and purchase one or more voting and counting machines, approved as provided in the preceding section, and order the use thereof at elections of state, city or town officers in said city or town; and thereafter at all elections of state, city or town officers in

**To be examined and approved.**

**None other to be used.**

**Power to determine purchase, etc.  
To whom given.**

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\* See Acts of 1903, Chapter 368, page 78.

said city or town, until otherwise ordered by the aldermen in a city and the selectmen in a town, said machines shall be used for the purpose of voting for the officers to be elected at such elections and for taking the vote upon the question of granting licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors and upon other questions submitted to the voters, and shall also be used at caucuses if in a town or in a ward of a city, fifty voters, members of the political party whose caucus is to be held, sign and file such request with the city or town clerk. In Boston, the power to determine upon, purchase and order the use of voting and counting machines shall be vested in a board consisting of the election commissioners and the mayor of the city; and the expense so incurred shall be deemed an expense of the election department of said city; and the machines so purchased shall be used at such elections and caucuses in that city as the election commissioners may from time to time determine.

**In Boston.**

**To be used as  
election  
commissioners  
determine.**

**Regulations  
for use.**

SECT. 273. The secretary of the commonwealth, the treasurer and receiver general and the auditor of accounts shall make regulations for the use of the machines approved by them, and prepare and furnish suitable instructions for the voters in cities or in towns in which such machines are used



### Corrupt Practices.

SECT. 285. The term "political committee," under the provisions of this chapter relative to corrupt practices, shall apply to every committee or combination of three or more persons who shall aid or promote the success or defeat of a political party or principle in a public election or shall aid or take part in the nomination, election or defeat of a candidate for public office.

**Term political committee defined.**

No person shall, in order to aid or promote his own nomination as a candidate for public office, by caucus, convention or nomination paper, directly or indirectly, himself or through another person, or by a political committee, give, pay, expend or contribute, or promise to give, pay, expend or contribute, any money or other valuable thing, except for personal expenses as hereinafter provided.

**Candidates for nomination not to pay money except for personal expenses.**

SECT. 286. No person shall, in order to aid or promote his own nomination or election to a public office, directly or indirectly, himself or through another person, promise to appoint, or promise to secure or assist in securing the appointment, nomination or election of another person to a public position or employment or to a position of honor, trust or emolument, except that he

**Candidates for nomination or election not to promise appointments, etc.**

may announce or define what is his choice or purpose in relation to an election in which he may be called to take part, if elected.

SECT. 287. No person shall, in order to aid or promote his own election to a public office, directly or indirectly, himself or through another person, give, pay, expend or contribute, or promise to give, pay, expend or contribute, any money or other valuable thing, except for personal expenses or to a political committee as hereinafter provided.

SECT. 288. A candidate for nomination or for election to a public office, and any other person, may incur and pay, in connection with such nomination or election, his own personal expenses for traveling and for purposes properly incidental to traveling; for writing, printing and preparing for transmission any letter, circular or other publication not issued at regular intervals, whereby he may state his position or views upon public or other questions; for stationery and postage, for telegraph, telephone and other public messenger service, and for other petty personal purposes; but all such expenses shall be limited to those which are directly incurred and paid by him. Such personal expenses need not be included in any statement required of him.

SECT. 289. A person who is nominated as a candidate or voted for with his assent for public office, may make a voluntary payment of money or a voluntary and unconditional

**Candidates for election not to pay money, etc., except for personal expenses, and to a political committee.**

**Candidates may incur certain personal expenses.**

**not to be included in statement.**

**Candidates may make voluntary payment to a committee.**

promise of payment of money to a political committee for the promotion of the principles of the party which it represents, and for its general purposes.

SECT. 290. Every political committee shall have a treasurer, who is a voter of the commonwealth, and shall cause him to keep detailed accounts of all money or its equivalent, received by or promised to the committee, or by or to any person acting under its authority or in its behalf, and of all expenditures, disbursements and promises of payment or disbursement made by the committee or by any person acting under its authority or in its behalf. No person acting under its authority or behalf shall receive money or its equivalent, or expend or disburse the same, until the committee has chosen a treasurer.

SECT. 291. Whoever, acting under the authority or in behalf of a political committee, receives any money or its equivalent, or promise of the same, or expends or incurs any liability to pay the same, shall, on demand, and in any event within fourteen days after such receipt, expenditure, promise or liability, give to the treasurer a detailed account of the same, with all vouchers required by this chapter, which shall be a part of the accounts and files of such treasurer.

SECT. 292. The treasurer of every political committee which receives, expends or disburses any money or its equivalent, or incurs

**committee to  
have  
treasurer.**

**treasurer to  
keep detailed  
accounts.**

**treasurer to  
be chosen  
before any  
payments are  
made.**

**Treasurer  
may demand  
agent to  
account to  
him.**

**Treasurer to file statement if receipts, etc., exceed twenty dollars within 30 days after an election.**

**statement to give full details.**

any liability to pay money in connection with any nomination or election to an amount exceeding twenty dollars, shall, within thirty days after such election, file a statement setting forth all the receipts, expenditures, disbursements and liabilities of the committee and of every officer and other person acting under its authority or in its behalf. It shall include the amount in each case received, the name of the person or committee from whom received, the date of its receipt, the amount of every expenditure or disbursement, the name of the person or committee to whom it was made, and the date thereof; and, unless such expenditure or disbursement was made to another political committee, shall clearly state the purpose of such expenditure or disbursement; also the date and amount of every existing promise or liability, both to and from such committee, remaining unfulfilled and in force when the statement is made, the name of the person or committee to or from whom the unfulfilled promise or liability exists, and a clear statement of the purpose for which the promise or liability was made or incurred. If the aggregate receipts or disbursements of a political committee in connection with any election shall not exceed twenty dollars, the treasurer of the committee shall, within thirty days after the election, certify that fact under oath to the secretary of the commonwealth.

SECT. 293. Whoever, acting otherwise

than under the authority or in behalf of a political committee having a treasurer, receives money or its equivalent, or expends or disburses, or promises to expend or disburse money or its equivalent, to an amount exceeding twenty dollars, to aid or promote the success or defeat of a political party or principle in any election, or to aid or influence the nomination, election or defeat of a candidate for office, shall file in the city or town in which he is a voter, the statement required by the preceding section, and shall be subject to all the duties required by this chapter of a political committee or the treasurer thereof; but no person except a voter of the commonwealth shall receive, expend or disburse any money or its equivalent or promise to expend or disburse any money or its equivalent, for either of the purposes above named, except for personal expenses as is herein provided, or under the authority or in behalf of a political committee.

SECT. 294. No person shall, directly or indirectly, himself or through another person, make a payment or promise of payment to a political committee or to any person acting under its authority or in its behalf, in any name except his own; nor shall such committee or person knowingly receive a payment or promise of payment, or enter or cause the same to be entered in the accounts or records of such committee, in any other name than that of the person by whom it is made.

**Other persons who receive and expend money to make and file statement.**

**legal voters only to receive or expend money except for personal expenses or through a committee.**

**No person to make payments other than in his own name.**

**money received not to be entered in any other name than that of the giver.**

**Candidates  
not to be  
solicited for  
money.**

**prohibited  
from giving  
when  
solicited.**

**Payment of  
naturaliza-  
tion fees  
prohibited.**

**Treasurer to  
file statement  
with city or  
town clerk.**

**In duplicate  
when  
relating to  
other than a  
city election.**

SECT. 295. No political committee, and no person acting under its authority or in its behalf, shall demand, solicit, ask or invite, from a person who has been nominated as a candidate for office in an election a payment of money, or promise of payment of money, to be used in such election; and no such candidate shall make any such payment to a political committee or to any person acting under its authority or in its behalf, if such committee or person has demanded, solicited, asked or invited from him any such payment or promise of payment.

SECT. 296. No political committee and no person who is required to file a statement under the preceding eleven sections shall make any payment or promise of payment of money to or in behalf of any person for naturalization fees or for services as counsel or otherwise in assisting any one to obtain naturalization.

SECT. 297. The statement required by section two hundred and ninety-two shall be filed with the clerk of the city or town in which the treasurer is a voter, or if the political committee has headquarters, with the clerk of the city or town in which such headquarters are maintained at the time of the election to which the statement relates. A statement relating to any other than a city or town election, or an election by a city council or by either branch thereof, shall be filed in duplicate, and one copy shall be

forthwith forwarded by the city or town clerk to the secretary of the commonwealth. Whoever makes a statement required by the provisions of this chapter shall make oath that it is in all respects correct and true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

SECT. 298. The secretary of the commonwealth shall inspect all statements filed with him under the preceding section within sixty days after the same have been filed, and upon discovery that any such statement does not conform to law, or upon complaint in writing of five registered voters that such statement does not conform to law or to the truth or that any person has failed to file a statement required by law, he shall, in writing, notify the delinquent person. Such complaint shall state in detail the grounds of objection, be sworn to by one of the subscribers and be filed with said secretary within sixty days after the election in question or within thirty days after the filing of a statement or amended statement.

SECT. 299. Upon the failure to file a statement or amended statement within ten days after receiving notice under the preceding section, the secretary shall notify the proper district attorney, who shall, within two months, begin civil or criminal proceedings in the name of the commonwealth.

SECT. 300. If such statement relates to city or town elections, or to an election on the part of a city council, or of either branch thereof, the provisions of the preceding sec-

under oath.

**Secretary of the commonwealth to inspect all statements filed with him.**

**persons to be notified if statement is incorrect or complaint made.**

**complaints to be filed within 60 days after election or within 30 days after filing statement.**

**District Attorney may institute proceedings in certain cases.**

**Statements relating to city and town elections, etc.**

**Equity  
powers of  
court  
proceedings,  
etc.**

**complaints  
to be filed  
within 60  
days after  
election, but  
may be  
within 30  
days.**

**proceedings  
to be  
advanced.**

**no petition  
to be  
discontinued  
without  
consent.**

**Witnesses  
not liable  
to  
prosecution  
except for  
perjury.**

tions shall apply to the respective city or town clerks instead of to the secretary of the commonwealth.

SECT. 301. The supreme judicial court or the superior court may compel any person who fails to file a statement as above required, or who files a statement which does not conform to the foregoing requirements in respect to its truth, sufficiency in detail, or otherwise, to file a sufficient statement, upon the application of the district attorney or petition of any candidate voted for, or of any five persons qualified to vote at the election on account of which the expenditures, or any part thereof, were made or are alleged to have been made. Such petition shall be filed within sixty days after such election, if the statement was filed within the thirty days required, but a petition may be filed within thirty days of any payment not included in the statement so filed. Proceedings under this section shall be advanced upon the request of either party for speedy trial. No petition brought under this chapter shall be discontinued without the consent of the attorney general.

SECT. 302. No person who is called to testify in any proceedings under the preceding section shall be liable to criminal prosecution under this chapter or otherwise for any matters or causes in respect of which he shall be examined or to which his testimony shall relate, except to prosecution for perjury committed in such testimony.



SECT. 303. All statements shall be preserved for fifteen months after the election to which they relate, and shall, under reasonable regulations, be open to public inspection.

**Statements to be kept fifteen months and to be open to the public.**

SECT. 304. Every payment required to be accounted for shall, unless the total expense payable to any one person is less than five dollars, be vouched for by a receipted bill stating the particulars of expense, and every voucher, receipt or account hereby required shall be preserved for six months after the election to which it relates.

**Vouchers for payment over five dollars required.**

SECT. 305. The secretary of the commonwealth shall provide every city and town, at the expense of the commonwealth, with blank forms, approved by the secretary of the commonwealth, the treasurer and receiver general, and the auditor of accounts, suitable for the statements above required.

**Blank forms to be provided.**

SECT. 306. The provisions of this chapter relative to corrupt practices shall apply to all public elections, except of town officers, and to elections by the general court and by city councils, and by either branch thereof, to the nomination by caucuses and conventions and nomination papers of candidates to be voted for at such elections. Sections two hundred and eighty-five, two hundred and eighty-seven and two hundred and ninety-four shall not apply to the proprietors and publishers of publications issued at regular intervals, in respect to the ordinary conduct of their business.

**To whom the provisions of this chapter relative to corrupt practices apply.**

**not to apply to certain publishers.**

### Inquest in Caucus, Convention and Election Cases.

**Inquests in cases of alleged violations of certain laws relating to caucuses, conventions, etc.**

SECT. 307. Upon a complaint subscribed and sworn to by any person before a police, district or municipal court, or a trial justice, alleging that reasonable grounds exist for believing that any law relating to the assessment, qualification or registration of voters, or to voting lists or ballots, or to caucuses, conventions and elections, or to any matters pertaining thereto, has been violated, such court or justice may at once hold an inquest to inquire into such alleged violation of the law.

For mode of procedure see sections 308 to 313, chapter II, Revised Laws.

### Penalties upon Officers.

**Penalties on officer of a caucus or convention making false count.**

SECT. 368. An officer of a caucus or convention who knowingly makes any false count of ballots or votes, or makes a false statement or declaration of the result of a ballot or vote, or knowingly refuses to receive any ballot offered by a person qualified to vote at such caucus or convention, or wilfully alters, defaces or destroys any ballots cast, or voting lists used thereat, before the requirements of this chapter have been complied with, or declines or wilfully fails to receive any written request made as therein, required, or declines or wilfully fails to perform any duty or obligation imposed thereby

shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than three months.

Any such presiding officer, secretary or clerk of a caucus who wilfully neglects or refuses to comply with the requirements of section ninety-eight shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars for each offence.

**On presiding officer, secretary, or clerk of a caucus violating section ninety-eight.**

SECT. 369. A caucus officer who violates any of the provisions of section ninety-one shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

**On caucus officer violating section ninety-one.**

SECT. 372. A presiding officer at a caucus or at a state or city election, or at an election in a town at which official ballots are used, who, when the right of a person offering to vote is challenged for any legal cause, wilfully or negligently fails to require the name and residence of such person to be written upon the ballot offered by him, and to add thereto the name of the person challenging and the assigned cause, before such ballot is received, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

**On presiding officer of a caucus when right to vote is challenged.**

SECT. 380. A public officer, caucus or election officer, or officer or member of a political committee or political convention, upon whom a duty is imposed by law, who refuses or wilfully neglects or wilfully fails to perform such duty, or who wilfully performs it contrary to law, shall for each offence, if no other penalty is herein specifically imposed therefor, be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year. . . .

**On caucus officer, officer or member of political committee or convention failing to perform a duty.**

### Penalties upon Voters.

**For illegal voting or attempting to vote.**

**For placing distinguishing mark on ballot.**

**For allowing marking of ballot to be seen, giving false answer or making false oath.**

**For violation of provisions of section 91 as to taking an oath.**

**For making false statements as to inability to mark ballots, etc.**

**For aiding or abetting in illegal voting.**

SECT. 381. Whoever at a caucus votes or attempts to vote, knowing that he is not entitled so to do, or votes or attempts to vote upon any name other than his own, or more than once on his own name, or casts or attempts to cast more than one ballot, or places any distinguishing mark upon a ballot, or makes a false statement as to his ability to mark his ballot, or unlawfully allows the marking of his ballot to be seen by any person, or gives a false answer to, or makes a false oath before a presiding officer, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six months.

SECT. 382. A voter who violates any of the provisions of section ninety-one shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

SECT. 384. A voter who makes a false statement as to his inability to mark a ballot, or who, except for the purpose of obtaining assistance under section two hundred and twenty-nine, allows his ballot to be seen by any person with an intention of indicating how he is about to vote shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

### General Penalties.

SECT. 394. Whoever aids or abets a person, who is not entitled to vote, in voting or attempting to vote at a caucus, or in voting or attempting to vote under a name other than

his own, or in casting or attempting to cast more than one ballot, or wilfully and without lawful authority hinders, delays or interferes with, or aids in hindering, delaying or interfering with, a voter while on his way to a caucus, while marking his ballot or while voting or attempting to vote, or endeavors to induce a voter to show his ballot, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

SECT. 395. Whoever alters a ballot cast at a caucus or, not being authorized thereto, deposits a ballot in a ballot box or envelope used at a caucus, or removes a ballot from such ballot box or envelope, shall be punished by imprisonment in jail for not more than three years.

SECT. 396. Whoever falsely makes or wilfully alters, defaces, mutilates, destroys or suppresses a certificate of nomination or nomination paper, or letter of withdrawal of a name from such paper, or unlawfully signs any such certificate, paper or letter, or files any such certificate, paper or letter, knowing the same to be falsely made or altered, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

SECT. 397. Whoever as a notary public, justice of the peace, or other magistrate, takes the oath of a signer to a nomination paper without satisfying himself that the person to whom the oath is administered is the signer of such nomination paper, or who

**For altering, depositing or removing ballot with intent to cheat.**

**For falsely making, filing, suppressing, defacing, etc., certificate, nomination paper or letter.**

**Penalties on notaries, etc., taking oaths of signers to nomination papers.**

shall fail to state in his attestation of such oath that he is so satisfied, shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten or more than fifty dollars.

**For writing,  
printing,  
posting,  
distributing,  
etc.,  
anonymous  
circulars, etc.**

SECT. 398. Whoever intentionally writes, prints, posts, or distributes, or causes to be written, printed, posted, or distributed, a circular or poster which is designed or tends to injure or defeat any candidate for nomination or election to any public office, by criticising his personal character or political action, unless there appears upon such circular or poster in a conspicuous place either the names of the chairman and secretary, or of two officers of the political or other organization issuing the same, or of some voter who is responsible therefor, with his name and residence, and the street and number thereof, if any, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six months.

**For posting,  
circulating,  
etc., printed  
matter in  
and about  
polling  
places at  
caucuses and  
elections.**

SECT. 399. Whoever posts, circulates or distributes any poster, card, handbill, placard, picture or circular except a paster to be placed upon the official ballot, intended to influence the action of a voter, in the polling place, in the building in which the polling place is located or on the walls thereof, on the premises on which the building stands, or on the sidewalk adjoining said premises, shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars.

SECT. 404. Whoever, before an election, wilfully defaces or destroys any list of candi-

dates posted under the provisions of this chapter, or, during a caucus or an election, wilfully defaces, tears down, removes or destroys any card of instruction or specimen ballot posted for the instruction of voters, or during a caucus or an election, wilfully removes or destroys any of the supplies or conveniences furnished to enable a voter to prepare his ballot, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

SECT. 405. Whoever forges or falsely makes the official endorsement on any ballot, or wilfully destroys or defaces a ballot, or wilfully delays the delivery of any ballots, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

SECT. 406. Whoever wilfully and without lawful authority obstructs or delays a voter when on his way to the polling place where he is entitled to vote or while he is voting or attempting to vote, or aids or assists in any such obstruction or delay, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

SECT. 407. Whoever interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he is marking his ballot or is within the space enclosed by the guard rail, or endeavors to induce a voter, before he has voted, to show how he marks or has marked his ballot, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

SECT. 410. Whoever places a mark against

**For defacing, destroying, etc., lists, cards, ballots, supplies, etc.**

**For forging, etc., endorsement, destroying, etc., ballot, or delaying delivery of ballots.**

**For hindering or delaying a voter.**

**For interfering with voter, or inducing voter to show ballot.**

**For marking ballot contrary to law.**

a name on a ballot not cast by himself, or places a distinguishing mark on a ballot not cast by himself, except as authorized by law, shall be punished by imprisonment in jail for not more than three years.

**For removing a ballot from enclosed space.**

SECT. 412. Whoever removes a ballot from the space enclosed by the guard rail before the close of the polls, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

**For paying, giving or promising anything to influence a voter.**

SECT. 415. Whoever pays or gives, or directly or indirectly promises to a voter any gift or reward to influence his vote or to induce him to withhold his vote, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

**For disorderly conduct at caucuses.**

SECT. 416. Whoever, at a caucus or at an election, behaves in a disorderly manner, and, after notice from the presiding officer, persists in such behavior and refuses to withdraw from the polling place, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than thirty days.

**For disobeying orders of caucus officers.**

SECT. 417. Whoever wilfully disobeys any lawful command of an election or caucus officer, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than thirty days.

**For not removing pipe, cigar, liquor, etc.**

SECT. 418. Whoever, when so ordered by the presiding officer of an election, caucus or meeting, refuses or fails to remove any pipe, cigar, cigarette or liquor, or to withdraw from the polling place, as provided by sec-



tion \* two hundred and twenty-two, shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars.

SECT. 419. Whoever gives any information derived from a recount of votes relative to a ballot cast by a challenged voter at an election or caucus, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year.

**For giving  
information  
regarding  
challenged  
votes.**

SECT. 420. Whoever violates the provisions of sections two hundred and ninety-two to two hundred and ninety-four, inclusive, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year, and whoever violates any other provision of this chapter relative to corrupt practices in elections shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

**For  
violation of  
provisions  
relating to  
corrupt  
practice.**

### Enforcement of Provisions.

SECT. 421. The supreme judicial court and the superior court shall have jurisdiction at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

**Supreme and  
Superior  
Court to have  
jurisdiction  
to enforce.**

Police officers and constables shall arrest without warrant any person detected in the act of violating the caucus or election laws.

**Officers to  
arrest  
without  
warrant.**

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\*Section 222. Any person who, during an election or town meeting, shall, in a polling place or place of such meeting, smoke or have in his possession a lighted pipe, cigar or cigarette, or carry into any such place or keep therein any intoxicating liquor, shall be deemed guilty of disorderly conduct; and the presiding officer shall order him to remove such pipe, cigar, cigarette, or liquor, or to withdraw from such place, and for disobedience of such order shall cause him to be removed from such polling place or meeting.

As amended  
1903, 318.

**Prosecution  
for violation  
not to be  
placed on file.  
exception.**

**how disposed  
of.**

A prosecution for the violation of any provision of this chapter shall not, unless the purposes of justice require such disposition, be placed on file or disposed of except by trial and judgment according to the regular course of criminal proceedings.

It shall be disposed of otherwise only upon motion in writing stating specifically the reasons therefor and verified by affidavit if facts are relied on.

If the court or magistrate certifies in writing that he is satisfied that the cause relied on exists and that the interests of public justice require the allowance of the motion the motion shall be allowed and the certificate of the court or magistrate shall be filed in the case.

Chapter 537, Acts of 1902.

**An Act to Provide for Direct Nomination,  
in Cities, of Candidates for Cer-  
tain Elective Offices.**

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

As amended 1903, 425.  
**Councillor in  
Suffolk Senatorial  
Districts, etc., to  
be nominated by  
direct plurality  
vote.**

SECTION 1. Every nomination by a political party of a candidate for the office of councillor in districts made up only of Suffolk senatorial districts, for representative in the general court, or any elective city office except a member of the school committee of Boston, to be voted for only in two or more wards of one city, shall be made in caucuses by direct plurality vote.

**Ballots  
and returns;  
how made.**

SECT. 2. All ballots and returns for such candidates shall be returned by the clerks of the several caucuses as ballots and returns of elections in such cities are returned, and the

city clerk with the registrars of voters, or in Boston the election commissioners, shall determine and tabulate the results of all such ballots and returns, shall certify to the facts required by law in certificates for nomination of representatives to the general court, and shall file such certificates with the secretary of the commonwealth on or before the Thursday designated by law therefor.

**Filing  
of  
certificates.**

The secretary of the commonwealth shall place on the official ballots to be used at the state election the names of all candidates for representatives nominated as aforesaid; and the city clerk, or in Boston the election commissioners, shall place on the official ballots to be used at municipal elections the names of all candidates nominated as aforesaid.

**Provision  
for  
placing  
names  
on ballots.**

SECT. 3. Where nomination papers for candidates at caucuses are required by law, such papers shall, for nominations under this act, be signed by a number of voters equal in the aggregate to not less than five for each ward in the city or district.

**Where nom-  
ination papers  
are required  
number of  
signers  
necessary.**

Such voters shall be members of the political party holding the caucus and they shall add to their signatures the street and number, if any, of their residences.

SECT. 4. All provisions of law relative to caucuses of political parties shall, so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, apply to caucuses at which direct nominations are made as herein provided.

**Provisions  
of law  
not  
inconsistent  
to apply.**

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.



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ACTS OF 1903.

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**An Act to Provide for the Appointment of  
a State Board of Voting Machine  
Examiners.**

Chapter 368.

SECTION 1. There shall be a state board of voting machine examiners, consisting of three persons, of whom one shall be an expert in patent law, and two shall be mechanical experts. Said examiners shall be appointed by the governor within thirty days after the passage of this act. They shall hold office for the term of five years, subject, however, to removal at the pleasure of the governor; and any vacancy shall be filled by the governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. No person shall be eligible for appointment who has a pecuniary interest in any voting machine, ballot box or counting apparatus.

SECT. 2. Said examiners of voting machines shall perform the duties relative to the examination of voting machines, ballot boxes and counting apparatus now imposed by law upon the secretary of the Commonwealth, the treasurer and receiver general and the auditor of accounts. Their compensation shall be paid by the persons submitting machines, boxes or counting apparatus for examination; and such compensation shall not exceed one hundred and fifty dollars to each examiner for the examination or re-examination of a machine, fifteen dollars for the examination or re-examination of a ballot box,

**Board of  
Voting Machine  
Examiners.  
to consist of  
three persons.**

**appointed by  
the Governor.**

**for five years.**

**Vacancies**

**Who are  
ineligible.**

**Duties.**

**Compensation.**

and five dollars for the examination or re-examination of counting apparatus.

**Bond to be given.**

SECT. 3. When voting machines are purchased by a city or town the persons of whom the purchase is made shall give to the city or town clerk a bond with sufficient sureties to keep such machines in working order for two years at their own expense.

**Repeal of section 272.**

Section two hundred and seventy-two of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws is hereby repealed.

**Inspection.**

SECT. 4. No voting machine shall be used at an election or caucus until it has been inspected under the direction of the secretary of the Commonwealth, and found upon such inspection to conform to drawings and specifications to be filed in the office of the secretary by the board of examiners, with their report on the machine.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

# **An Act to Provide for Direct Nomination of Candidates for Representatives in Congress in the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Districts.**

## Chapter 450.

**Certain candidates for Congress to be nominated by direct vote.**

SECTION 1. Every nomination by a political party of a candidate for representative in congress in the ninth, tenth and eleventh congressional districts shall be made in caucuses by direct plurality vote.



SECT. 2. All ballots and returns for such candidates shall be returned by the clerks of the several caucuses as ballots and returns of elections in the several cities and towns comprising said districts are returned, and the election commissioners of Boston and the clerks of the other cities and towns in each of said districts shall constitute a canvassing board for that district, to meet in the same manner and to perform the same duties as canvassing boards provided for in section one hundred and thirty-eight of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws.

**Return of  
ballots and  
returns.**

**Canvassing  
board.**

SECT. 3. All provisions of law relative to the preparation of nomination papers and ballots, to caucuses and elections, to ballots cast at caucuses and elections, to recounts of such ballots, and to certificates of nomination of candidates, shall, so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of the two preceding sections, apply to the caucuses therein named, the ballots cast thereat, the returns relative to such ballots, the recounts of such ballots, and the certificates of nomination made as aforesaid.

**Certain  
provisions of  
law to apply.**

**An Act Relative to Returns of Caucuses at  
Which are Made Direct Nominations  
of Candidates for Certain Elective  
Offices.**

Chapter 453.

SECTION 1. Returns of all caucuses of political parties at which are made any direct nominations for a district comprising more

**Returns of  
caucuses for  
direct nomina-  
tions how  
made.**

than one ward or town shall be made according to the provisions of section one hundred and twenty-four of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws.

**Canvassing  
board.**

In Boston the election commissioners and in other cities and in towns the registrars of voters shall canvass said returns and determine the results thereof.

Recounts of ballots shall be made as provided in section one hundred and twenty-six of said chapter.

**Filing of cer-  
tificates of  
nomination.**

In the case of candidates for a state office in a district comprising more than one ward and wholly within any one city, the city clerk, or in Boston the election commissioners, shall file in the office of the secretary of the Commonwealth the certificate of nomination required by law.

In the case of such candidates for a district not wholly within any one city or town, each city and town clerk in such district, or in Boston the election commissioners, shall file in the office of the secretary of the Commonwealth, in the manner and within the time required by law for filing certificates of nomination, copies of the record of votes for such candidates, and the secretary shall canvass them and determine the results thereof.

**In the event  
of a tie vote.**

SECT. 2. In the event of a tie vote for any candidate of a political party nominated directly for any office, there shall be deemed to be a vacancy, to be filled by a regularly elected general or executive committee representing the election district in which such

vote has been cast, or, if no such committee exists, by the members of the ward and town committees in the wards and towns comprising such district, but the vacancy shall be filled only by the choice of one of the candidates receiving such tie vote.

**An Act to Provide for Joint Caucuses or Primaries of all Political and Municipal Parties.**

**Chapter 454.**

**Terms.**

SECTION 1. For the purposes of this act the term "election law" shall apply to chapter eleven of the Revised Laws.

**Terms defined.**  
**Election Law.**

The term "primary" shall apply to any meeting held in accordance with the provisions of this act.

**Primary.**

The term "municipal party" shall apply to a party other than a political party which at the preceding city or town election polled for mayor or a selectman at least three per cent. of the entire vote cast in the city or town for that office; this term shall be used only with reference to caucuses for the nomination of city or town officers.

**Municipal party.**

**Caucuses or Primaries.**

SECT. 2. \*All caucuses of political and municipal parties in cities and in towns using official ballots, which towns at an annual

**Certain caucuses to be held and conducted as provided.**

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\*See section eighteen this act.

**exception.**

meeting vote that primaries shall be held therein, except caucuses to elect delegates to conventions held for the election of delegates to national conventions, and for the choice of ward committees after the change of ward lines, shall be held at the same time and place as primaries, and shall be conducted in general accordance with the provisions of law concerning the conduct of elections and the manner of voting thereat, except as otherwise provided herein.

**Towns may  
revoke action.**

Towns voting that primaries shall be held therein may, at a legal meeting called for the purpose, not less than one year after the date of the first primary held therein, revoke such action.

**town clerks  
to give notice.**

Clerks of towns which vote to hold primaries or to rescind such action shall forthwith notify the secretary of the Commonwealth of such vote.

### **Notices—Filing of Nomination Papers.**

**Notices  
when issued  
in Boston.**

SECT. 3. Notices of caucuses in the city of Boston shall be issued not less than twenty-two days prior to the day on which the caucuses are to be held.

**Nomination  
papers  
in Boston**

In Boston nomination papers shall be sealed up and filed in the office of the secretary of the city committee of the party making the nominations not less than fourteen week days prior to the day upon which the caucus is to be held for which the nominations are made; and the secretary of each city committee in the city of Boston shall deliver to the election commissioners, not

**When filed.**

less than ten week days before the day upon which the caucuses are to be held and before five o'clock in the afternoon of the last day, the nomination papers filed with him.

### Dates for Holding Primaries.

SECT. 4. Primaries shall be held on the sixth Tuesday preceding state elections, on the third Tuesday preceding city elections, except in Boston, where they shall be held on the fourth Thursday preceding the city election, and on the second Tuesday preceding town elections or any special election.

**When primaries are to be held.**

**exception**

In Boston they shall be held by precincts as established for elections; elsewhere, wholly or partly by wards, precincts or towns, as the board of aldermen or selectmen may from time to time determine.

**in Boston by precincts.**

**elsewhere.**

### Nominations and Nomination Papers.

SECT. 5. Nominations shall be made in accordance with the provisions of sections one hundred and seven to one hundred and sixteen, inclusive, of the election law, except that in the case of an election district not wholly within one ward or town the signers of nomination papers for that district may reside anywhere within the district.

**Nominations how made.**

**exception.**

### Ballots, Apparatus, &c.

SECT. 6. Ballots for each political and municipal party, ballot boxes, voting lists, specimen ballots, blank forms and apparatus, seals and record books, shall be provided and treated in accordance with the provisions of

**Ballots, etc., how provided.**

**number how  
determined.**

**to be of a dif-  
ferent color  
for each party.**

**Certain  
provisions of  
election law  
to apply.**

**Primary  
officers to be  
designated in  
certain cases.**

**When not  
ineligible.**

**Amendments  
relating to  
election  
officers.**

sections one hundred and seventeen to one hundred and twenty, inclusive, of the election law, except that the number of ballots shall be determined by the election commissioners in Boston, by the city clerk in any other city, and by the town clerk in towns, and shall not for any ward or town exceed one ballot of each party for each voter therein; and the ballots for each party shall be printed on paper of a different color from that on which the ballots for any other party are printed.

### **Primary Officers.**

SECT. 7. The provisions of the election law relating to election officers, voting places for elections, election apparatus and blanks, calling and conduct of elections, manner of voting at elections, counting and recounting of votes at elections, corrupt practices and penalties, shall apply to primaries, except as otherwise provided herein.

SECT. 8. In wards or towns where at elections voting is by precincts, but at primaries by wards or towns, the city or town clerk shall designate which of the election officers shall serve as primary officers.

Except in Boston no person shall be ineligible to serve as a primary officer because he is a candidate for or member of a ward or town committee.

SECT. 9. The following sections of the election law relating to election officers are hereby amended as follows:—

Section one hundred and seventy-one, by striking out the word "September," in the

first and second lines, and inserting in place thereof the word:—August, —.

Section one hundred and seventy-two, by striking out the word “October”, in the second and third lines, and inserting in place thereof the word:—August, —.

Section one hundred and seventy-three, by striking out the word “November”, in the tenth line, and inserting in place thereof the word:—September, —.

Section one hundred and seventy-five, by striking out the words “first day of November”, in the second line and also in the sixth line, and inserting in place thereof the words:—twentieth day of September, —.

### Polls.

SECT. 10. The polls at every primary shall be open during such hours, not less than nine in cities or four in towns, as may be designated by the board of election commissioners in Boston, the aldermen of other cities, and the selectmen of towns.

**Hours that  
polls are to  
be open.**

### Enrolment.

SECT. 11. When in a primary the voter seeks to pass the guard-rail, he shall be asked by one of the ballot clerks which party ballot he desires, and the ballot clerk upon reply shall distinctly announce the same and give him such party ballot. The voter's selection shall be checked on the voting list used by the ballot clerks, and said list shall be returned to the election commissioners in Boston, or to the city clerk in any other city, or

**Enrolment  
manner of**

to the town clerk in towns, for preservation during the succeeding calendar year. A copy of the party entries on such list shall be used at subsequent primaries for determining with what party the voter has been enrolled.

**may be  
changed.**

**not to take  
effect under  
ninety days.**

**if accuracy  
is denied.**

**may vote.**

**ballot may  
not be counted.**

No voter enrolled under the provisions of this act shall be allowed to receive the ballot of any political party except that with which he is so enrolled, but he may change his enrolment by appearing in person before the election commissioners in Boston, the city clerk in any other city, or the town clerk in towns, and requesting in writing to have his enrolment changed to another party; but such change shall not take effect until the expiration of ninety days after the voter so appears; but the political party enrolment of a voter shall not preclude him from receiving at a primary the ballot of any municipal party, though in no one primary shall he receive more than one party ballot.

Any voter who denies the accuracy of his enrolment as found on the voting list may deposit his ballot with the endorsement required by section two hundred and thirty-five of the election law; but said ballot shall not be counted on a recount if it appears that the party enrolment of such voter was correct.

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"He shall also be required to write his name and residence on the outside of the ballot offered and the presiding officer shall add thereto the name of the person challenging and the cause assigned therefor, whereupon such ballot shall be received."—SECT. 235.



### Counting and Return of Votes.

SECT. 12. In the counting of votes when the ballots are removed from the ballot box, they shall first be sorted into piles, one for each party, and each pile shall be counted and sealed separately. Votes shall be counted only for nominations of the party on whose ballot they appear.

**Votes  
how counted.**

SECT. 13. The election commissioners in Boston, the city clerks in other cities, and town clerks in towns, shall canvass the returns of votes for delegates to conventions and for members of ward and town committees, determine the result, issue proper certificates thereof to the successful candidates, and notify the chairmen of the city or town committees of the respective parties as to the persons who have been elected.

**Canvass of  
returns.**

**Certificates  
of election, etc.**

SECT. 14. If a majority of a delegation or of a ward or town committee is not elected, or if there is a tie vote for candidates for an elective office, there shall be deemed to be a vacancy to be filled according to the provisions of section one hundred and fifty-two of the election law.

**In case of  
non election  
or a tie vote.**

### Petitions for Recounts.

SECT. 15. In Boston petitions for recounts after primaries shall be filed before five o'clock in the afternoon of the second day thereafter.

**Petitions for  
recount.**

**School Committee Convention.**

**School  
Committee  
Conventions  
when held  
in Boston.**

SECT. 16. In Boston conventions to nominate candidates for school committee shall be called for and held on the seventh day after the primaries before the city election.

**Filing of Certificates &c.**

**Certificates of  
nomination,  
etc.**

Certificates of nomination shall be filed before five o'clock in the afternoon of the ninth day after said primaries; objections thereto, withdrawals therefrom, and all nomination papers, shall be filed before five o'clock in the afternoon of the eleventh day after said primaries; certificates of nomination to fill vacancies caused by withdrawals shall be filed before five o'clock in the afternoon of the twelfth day after said primaries.

**when filed.**

**vacancies.**

**Relating to this Act.**

**Act to be  
deemed  
amendment of  
election law.  
inconsistent  
acts repealed.**

SECT. 17. This act shall be deemed to be in amendment of the election law, and so much of said law as is inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed.

**In Boston  
Act to take  
effect upon  
its passage.**

SECT. 18. This act shall take effect in Boston upon its passage.

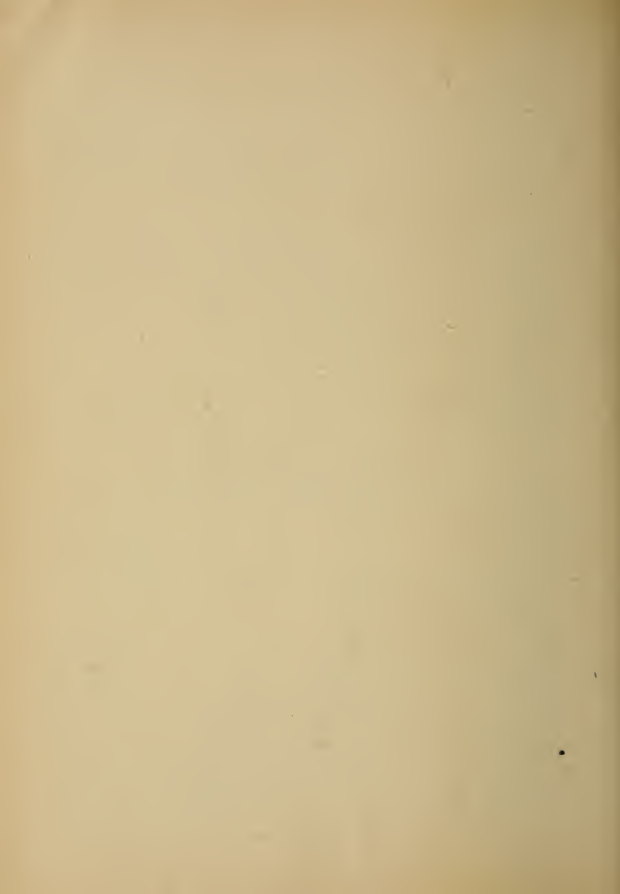
**elsewhere to  
be submitted  
to the voters.**

In other cities and in towns using official ballots the question of its acceptance shall be submitted to the voters at the next annual state election and the act shall take effect as soon after its acceptance by a majority of the voters voting thereon as the provisions of law relative to nominations can be complied with.

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# APPENDIX

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## QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS.

### MALE VOTERS.

Must be a citizen of the United States by birth or naturalization.

(The last day for getting naturalized depends upon the different courts, but must be before the close of registration.)

Must be at least twenty one years old, although one under age can be registered if he will be of age at the time of the next election.

Must, unless he had the right to vote in this state on May 1, 1857, or is physically disabled from doing so, be able to write his name and read in English the Constitution of the State.

Must have resided in the state one year, and in the city or town where he votes, six months next preceding such election.

Must not be under guardianship, nor a pauper (unless an honorably discharged veteran soldier or sailor).

Must have his name upon the list of registered voters ; but one who changes his residence within the state retains for six months the right to vote for national or state officers in the place from which he removes.

**Must have been assessed for a Poll Tax on the preceding First of May.** (Any person, however, whose name is not properly entered on the list of those liable for a poll tax on May 1, may be assessed by proving to the Board of Assessors his right to be assessed.

In Boston the Board of Police not later than September 1.

**The payment of any Poll or other Tax is not a Prerequisite for Registration or Voting in Massachusetts.**

A person qualified to vote in a city or town divided into wards or voting precincts, shall be registered and be entitled to vote in the ward or voting precinct in which he resided on the first day of May preceding the election, or, if he became an inhabitant of such city or town after such first day of May, in the ward or voting precinct in which he first became a resident.

### FEMALE VOTERS.

Every female citizen having the qualifications of a male voter required by the preceding section may have her name entered upon the list of voters for school committee, and shall have the right to vote for members of the school committee, upon complying with the requirements hereinafter set forth. Sec. 13, chap. 11, Revised Laws.

## NATURALIZATION.

### In General.

Naturalization papers can be taken out in the United States Circuit or District Courts (in Post Office Building, Boston), or in the Supreme Judicial or Superior Court of the County in which the applicant resides, or in the nearest District, Police or Municipal Court.

Aliens honorably discharged from the army, or showing five years continuous service in the navy, may become citizens upon making proof of one year's residence in the country without previous declaration of intention.

Chinese, Japanese and Burmese cannot be naturalized.

Children under 21 at the time of the naturalization of their parents, and residing with them at the time, or born after such naturalization, are deemed citizens of the U. S.

American citizens legally throwing off such citizenship must be naturalized to re-acquire it.

### An Alien to Become a Naturalized Citizen.

#### If in Massachusetts Courts

primary declaration may be filed at any time. Every application shall be entered upon the docket of the court, and final action thereon shall be had at any regular sitting of the court. Such application shall contain the name, age, occupation and street and number of residence of applicant and names and residence of witnesses he intends to summons at his final hearing. Ten days notice is required if application is made in the U. S. District Court. None in the Circuit Court. No primary or final certificate shall issue until the fees (see next page) are first paid.

**If he comes to this country before he is eighteen**  
he is required to take out only one set of papers; these can be taken out at any time when the court is in session.

**If he comes to this country after he is eighteen**  
he must take out two sets of papers.

**Second or Final Papers.**

When two sets of papers are required, two years must elapse after the first set are taken out before he can take out the second. In neither case can he become a citizen until he is 21 and has resided in the U. S. five years.

Must take to the clerk of the court the certificate showing that first papers have been granted.

Must renounce allegiance to the ruler of the country of his birth, and certify as to his residence in this country.

Will be informed by clerk of court when to appear before the court. On the date set must be accompanied by two witnesses, citizens of this country, who must in open court make oath that he has lived in the U. S. five years.

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**FEEES :**

For making out first papers by clerk of court,	\$1.00
For making out final application by clerk where primary declaration thereto has been made,	1.00
For making out final application by clerk, of appli- cant who came this country before he was 18, (The applicant or any other person may make out these papers in which case no fee is charged.)	2.00
For filing first papers by clerk of court,	1.00
For filing second papers,	2.00
For copy of any naturalization paper if required for any cause,	1.00

In the Massachusetts courts the fee is not returned if the applicant is refused.

In the U. S. courts no charge is usually made unless the applicant is successful.

The payment by any one except the applicant of money for fees for services in obtaining naturalization, is prohibited under penalty in Massachusetts.

Blank forms for naturalization may be obtained of clerks of courts, and generally at political headquarters.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.**

[AS ESTABLISHED BY CHAPTER 511, ACTS OF 1901.]

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**DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.**

All of Berkshire County; Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroë, Rowe, Shelburne and Whately in Franklin County; Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Southampton, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington in Hampshire County; Agawam, Blandford, Chester, Granville, Holyoke, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick, Tolland, Westfield and West Springfield in Hampden County.

**DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.**

Erving, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick and Wendell in Franklin County; Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Enfield, Granby, Greenwich, Hadley, Northampton, Pelham, Prescott, South Hadley and Ware in Hampshire County; Brimfield, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holland, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Springfield, Wales and Wilbraham in Hampden County; Athol, Barre, Brookfield, Dana, Hardwick, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warren and West Brookfield in Worcester County.

**DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.**

Auburn, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Sutton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston and Worcester in Worcester County.

**DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.**

Ashburnham, Berlin, Bolton, Boylston, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Northborough, Princeton, Southborough, Sterling, Templeton, Westminster and Winchendon in Worcester County; Acton, Ashby, Ashland, Ayer, Bedford, Boxborough, Concord, Framingham, Groton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Marlborough, Maynard, Natick, Pepperell, Shirley, Stow, Sudbury, Townsend, Waltham, Wayland, Westford and Weston in Middlesex County.

**DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE.**

Billerica, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, North Reading, Reading, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough and Wilmington in Middlesex County; Andover, Lawrence, Lynnfield, Methuen and North Andover in Essex County.

**DISTRICT NUMBER SIX.**

Amesbury, Beverly, Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Groveland, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Manchester, Marblehead, Merri-



**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS — Concluded.**

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mac, Middleton, Newbury, Newburyport, Peabody, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Swampscott, Topsfield, Wenham and West Newbury in **Essex County**.

**DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN.**

Lynn, Nahant and Saugus in **Essex County**; Everett, Malden, Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield in **Middlesex County**; Chelsea and Revere in **Suffolk County**.

**DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT.**

Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, Winchester and Woburn in **Middlesex County**.

**DISTRICT NUMBER NINE.**

Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Precincts 6 and 7 of Ward 12 of Boston, and Winthrop in **Suffolk County**.

**DISTRICT NUMBER TEN.**

Wards 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20 and 24 of Boston in **Suffolk County**; Milton and Quincy in **Norfolk County**.

**DISTRICT NUMBER ELEVEN.**

Wards 10, 11, Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Ward 12, Wards 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 25 of Boston in **Suffolk County**.

**DISTRICT NUMBER TWELVE.**

Avon, Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Canton, Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Holbrook, Hyde Park, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Randolph, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood, Weymouth and Wrentham in **Norfolk County**; Holliston, Hopkinton, Newton, Sherborn and Watertown in **Middlesex County**; Blackstone, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford and Upton in **Worcester County**; North Attleborough in **Bristol County**.

**DISTRICT NUMBER THIRTEEN.**

Acushnet, Berkley, Dartmouth, Dighton, Fairhaven, Fall River, Free-town, New Bedford, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea and Westport in **Bristol County**; Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester in **Plymouth County**; County of Dukes County and Nantucket.

**DISTRICT NUMBER FOURTEEN.**

Abington, Bridgewater, Brockton, Carver, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Marshfield, Middleborough, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rockland, Scituate, Wareham, West Bridgewater and Whitman in **Plymouth County**; Attleborough, Easton, Mansfield, Norton, Raynham and Taunton in **Bristol County**; Cohasset in **Norfolk County**; Barnstable County.

**COUNCILLOR DISTRICTS.**

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AS ESTABLISHED BY CHAPTER 509 OF THE ACTS OF 1896.

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**DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.**

The Cape, First and Second Plymouth, and the Second and Third Bristol Senatorial Districts.

**Cape District.**—The County of Barnstable; and the County of Dukes County and Nantucket.

**Plymouth District.**—The County of Plymouth and town of Cohasset in Norfolk County,

**Bristol District.**—Acushnet, Dartmouth, Dighton, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, New Bedford, Somerset, Swanzev, and Westport in the County of Bristol.

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**DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.**

The First Bristol, First and Second Norfolk, and Seventh and Eighth Suffolk Senatorial Districts.

**Bristol District.**—Attleborough, Berkley, Easton, Mansfield, North Attleborough, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Taunton in the County of Bristol.

**Norfolk District.**—The County of Norfolk except the town of Cohasset.

**Suffolk District.**—Wards 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, Boston.

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**DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.**

The First and Second Suffolk, and the First, Second, and Third Middlesex Senatorial Districts.

**Suffolk District.**—Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, and Wards Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5, Boston.

**Middlesex District.**—Arlington, Ashland, Belmont, Cambridge, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Natick, Newton, Sherborn, Somerville, Watertown and Weston in the County of Middlesex.

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**DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.**

The Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Suffolk Senatorial Districts.

**Suffolk District.**—Wards Nos. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 25, Boston.

**COUNCILLOR DISTRICTS—Concluded.****DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE.**

The First, Second, Third and Fourth Essex, and the Middlesex and Essex Senatorial Districts.

**Essex District** — Amesbury, Beverly, \*Bradford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Groveland, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Wards Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, Lynn, Manchester, Marblehead, Merrimac, Nahant, Newbury, Newburyport, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Swampscott, Wenham and West Newbury in the County of Essex.

**Middlesex and Essex Districts.**—Ward No. 6, Lynn, Lynnfield, Middleton, North Reading, Peabody, Saugus, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Woburn, in the counties of Middlesex and Essex.

**DISTRICT NUMBER SIX.**

The Essex, and the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Middlesex Senatorial Districts.

**Essex District.**—Andover, Boxford, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, and Topsfield, in the county of Essex.

**Middlesex Districts.**—Acton, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford, Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Dunstable, Everett, Groton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Lowell, Malden, Marlborough, Maynard, Medford, Melrose, Pepperell, Reading, Shirley, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Waltham, Wayland, Westford, Wilmington, and Winchester, in the county of Middlesex.

**DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN.**

The First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Worcester Senatorial Districts.

**Worcester Districts.**—All of Worcester County.

**DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT.**

The Berkshire, Berkshire and Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampshire, and First and Second Hampden Senatorial Districts.

All of Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden Counties.

\* Now Ward 7, Haverhill, chap. 365, acts of 1901.

## SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

AS ESTABLISHED BY CHAPTER 509 OF THE ACTS OF 1896.

### The County of Suffolk.

(Including Ward 3, Cambridge, Middlesex County)—Nine Senators.

**First District.**—Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, and Ward No. 1, Boston.

**Second District.**—Wards Nos. 3, 4, 5, Boston, and Ward 3, Cambridge. (Now Wards 1, 2, acts of 1901, chap. 397.)

**Third District.**—Wards Nos. 2, 6, and 8, Boston.

**Fourth District.**—Wards Nos. 7, 9, and 17, Boston.

**Fifth District.**—Wards Nos. 10, 12, and 18, Boston.

**Sixth District.**—Wards Nos. 13, 14, and 15, Boston.

**Seventh District.**—Wards Nos. 16, 20, and 24, Boston.

**Eighth District.**—Wards Nos. 21, 22, and 23, Boston.

**Ninth District.**—Wards Nos. 11, 19, and 25, Boston.

### The Counties of Essex and Middlesex.—Thirteen Senators.

**First Essex District.**—Wards Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, Lynn, Nahant, and Swampscott.

**Second Essex District.**—Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, and Salem.

**Third Essex District.**—Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Newbury, Newburyport, Rockport, Rowley, and Wenham.

**Fourth Essex District.**—Amesbury, \*Bradford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Merrimac, Salisbury, and West Newbury.

**Fifth Essex District.**—Andover, Boxford, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, and Topsfield.

**First Middlesex District.**—Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Natick, Newton, Sherborn, Watertown, and Weston.

**Second Middlesex District.**—Wards Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 5, Cambridge. (Now Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, acts 1901, chap. 397.)

**Third Middlesex District.**—Arlington, Belmont, and Somerville.

**Fourth Middlesex District.**—Everett, Malden, and Melrose.

**Fifth Middlesex District.**—Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough, Medford, Sudbury, Waltham, Wayland, and Winchester.

**Sixth Middlesex District.**—Acton, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford, Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Carlisle, Concord, Dunstable, Groton, Hudson, Littleton, Wards Nos. 5 and 9, Lowell, Maynard, Pepperell, Reading, Shirley, Stow, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Westford, and Wilmington.

**Seventh Middlesex District.**—Chelmsford, Dracut, and Wards Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8, Lowell.

**Middlesex and Essex District.**—Ward No. 6, Lynn, Lynnfield, Middleton, Peabody, and Saugus, in the county of Essex; North Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Woburn, in the county of Middlesex.

\* Bradford, in Fourth Essex, now Ward 7, Haverhill. Acts 1896, chap. 365.

**SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.—Continued.****The County of Worcester.—Five Senators.**

**First District.**—Wards Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Worcester.

**Second District.**—Berlin, Boiton, Boylston, Clinton, Harvard, Holden, Lancaster, Sterling, West Boylston, and Wards Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Worcester.

**Third District.**—Ashburnham, Athol, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Lunenburg, Royalston, Westminster, and Winchendon.

**Fourth District.**—Barre, Brookfield, Charlton, Dana, Dudley, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Leicester, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Paxton, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Templeton, Warren, Webster, and West Brookfield.

**Fifth District.**—Auburn, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hope-dale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, Oxford, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, and Westborough.

**The Counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire—Five Senators.**

**Berkshire District.**—Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, New Ashford, North Adams, Peru, Pittsfield, Savoy, Williamstown, and Windsor, in the county of Berkshire.

**Berkshire and Hampshire District.**—Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge, in the county of Berkshire; Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Goshen, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Northampton, Plainfield, South Hadley, Southampton, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington, in the county of Hampshire; and Blandford, Chester, and Russell, in the county of Hampden.

**Franklin and Hampshire District.**—Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately, in the county of Franklin; and Amherst, Belchertown, Enfield, Granby, Greenwich, Pelham, Prescott, and Ware, in the county of Hampshire.

**First Hampden District.**—Brimfield, Holland, Monson, Palmer, Springfield, Wales, and Wilbraham.

**Second Hampden District.**—Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Montgemery, Southwick, Tolland, West Springfield, and Westfield.

**SENATORIAL DISTRICTS—Concluded.**

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**The County of Norfolk (excluding Cohasset)—Two Senators.**

**First District**—Braintree, Canton, Holbrook, Hyde Park, Milton, Quincy, Randolph and Weymouth.

**Second District**—Avon, Bellingham, Brookline, Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood, and Wrentham.

**The County of Plymouth.**

(Including Cohasset, in Norfolk County)—Two Senators.

**First District**—Abington, Carver, Cohasset (Norfolk County), Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rockland, Scituate and Whitman.

**Second District**—Bridgewater, Brockton, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Rochester, Wareham and West Bridgewater.

**The County of Bristol.—Three Senators.**

**First District**—Attleborough, Berkley, Easton, Mansfield, North Attleborough, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk and Taunton.

**Second District**—Dighton, Fall River, Somerset and Swansea.

**Third District**—Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, New Bedford and Westport.

**The Counties of Barnstable, Dukes County, and Nantucket.—One Senator.**

**Cape District**—Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet and Yarmouth, in the County of Barnstable; Chilmark, Cottage City, Edgartown, Gay Head, Gosnold, Tisbury and West Tisbury, in the County of Dukes County, and Nantucket.

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\* In Boston, election commissioners.



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End













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